



**Letter of Intent**

**For the Establishment of a Partnership**

**Between**

**The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

**And**

**The Central African Forest initiative (CAFI)**

**On the Implementation of the National REDD+<sup>1</sup> Framework Strategy**

**and Investment Plan of the DRC**

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<sup>1</sup> REDD+: Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

## I. PREAMBLE AND CONTEXT

### *Considering:*

- The challenges of poverty reduction and economic and social development, as well as sustainable management and protection of natural resources, and their importance for the achievement of the objectives of human well-being and social equity;
- The seriousness of the issues related to climate change, one of the greatest challenges the planet is facing today, and yet one that also represents a unique opportunity for the emergence of a sustainable prosperity through international cooperation on climate;
- The need, to achieve these sustainable development goals, for the establishment of policies and measures that are agreed upon both at the national and international levels;
- The international negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and notably the Warsaw Framework and the Paris Agreement and the three REDD+ decisions adopted at COP21<sup>2</sup>, to which all members of this partnership have adhered;
- The magnitude of issues related to the transformation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's development path towards a green economy, towards a sustainable economic and social development, as well as efforts to mitigate climate change globally;

### *Recognizing:*

- The major advances of the REDD+ process in DRC, including: (i) achieving a national consensus on the drivers of deforestation, confirmed by the participatory development of the National REDD+ Framework Strategy, approved by the Government in November 2012; (ii) creating the National REDD + Fund (financial mechanism); (iii) validating the Investment Plan of the Forest Investment Programme (FIP); (iv) validating the DRC REDD + Investment Plan; (v) the development of REDD + implementation tools, and (vi) the validation by the FCPF Participants Committee of the report on the Readiness-Package Self-Assessment;
- The highly cross-sectoral and multisectoral nature of the REDD + process in the DRC, in order to deal with, in an integrated manner, the multiple drivers of deforestation, in line with international best practices, and based on the vision of the Government of the DRC for low carbon development;
- The commitments to reforms related to the land-use taken in 2013 by the DRC, with five REDD+ measures appearing Economic Governance Matrix of the country that reflect the high level political commitment demonstrated by the DRC;
- The need to actively promote the establishment of international partnerships to support the achievement of ambitious results of slowing, halting and reversing the decline of forest cover and carbon stocks globally, as recognized by the New York Declaration for Forests, the Lima and Bonn Challenges, to which the DRC is a signatory;

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<sup>2</sup> 16/CP.21 (joint mitigation and adaptation approaches), 17/CP.21 (summary of information on safeguards, 18/CP.21 (non-carbon benefits)

- The stated willingness of the Government of the DRC to implement the DRC's National REDD+ Framework Strategy and Investment Plan, in line with its operating principles, that include:
  - A logic of performance in program implementation, with at least half of funding intended to support field interventions, especially through subnational large-scale programs;
  - The integration of objectives of adaptation and resilience to climate change;
  - Compliance with the REDD+ social and environmental safeguards developed at the country's level, based on the Cancun guidelines, including the principles of consultation and participation;

*Recalling:*

- The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and acknowledging their relevance in the context of this Letter of Intent;
- The Aichi targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity to increase the acreage of the network of protected areas to at least 17 per cent;
- The Paris Agreement acknowledging that *"Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity"*;

*In view of the objective of the CAFI initiative:*

- Recognize and preserve the value of the forest in Central Africa with a view to mitigate climate change, reduce poverty and contribute to sustainable development;
- Support the implementation of holistic investment frameworks for low-carbon development, including political reform and national measures to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation that meet established environmental and social safeguards at the national level;
- Support the coordination of external interventions on a national policy framework;
- Constitute a forum for partnerships and sharing of experiences between countries.

*Taking into account:*

- The signature, during the meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York on 29 September 2015<sup>3</sup>, of a joint declaration between on one hand the countries of Central Africa with high humid forest cover and on the other hand a coalition of committed donors;
- The presentation of the DRC's REDD+ National Investment Plan to the Executive Board of CAFI on 26 October and 7 December 2015;

The parties agree to establish a cooperative partnership for the implementation of the DRC's National REDD+ Framework Strategy and REDD+ Investment Plan over the 2016-2020 period, on the basis of this

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.cafi.org/en/Joint\\_Declaration.aspx](https://www.cafi.org/en/Joint_Declaration.aspx)

Letter of Intent and the CAFI decision on a country allocation to DRC made by the CAFI Executive Board on 22 April.

Furthermore, they agree to a potential extension of the partnership beyond 2020, based on results achieved and availability of funding. It is envisioned that such an extended partnership would be based on payments for results in terms of reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation at a national level, while recognizing the importance of complementary investments needed prior to achieving some of the results, and that the basis of the partnership with CAFI remains the DRC National REDD+ Framework Strategy and Investment Plan.

## **II. PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Article I. Purpose of the Letter of Intention**

This Letter of Intention sets out the respective obligations of the parties within this partnership, in which:

- a. The DRC is committed, on the basis of substantial, additional, new and predictable funding, to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation including through striving to end the loss of natural forests by 2030, in accordance with the New York Declaration for Forests, and in line with the objectives of the National REDD+ Framework Strategy.

The DRC, on the same conditions, further commits to develop its Forest Reference Emission level(s) (FREL(s)) in dialogue with the CAFI Executive Board and to seek to reduce its deforestation compared to the FREL(s) in areas of integrated programs towards 2020, while aiming in the rest of the country to advance towards the 2030 objective aforementioned.

- b. CAFI is committed to mobilize and secure funding to implement interventions identified in the DRC's National REDD + Investment Plan, designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forests and poverty, starting notably with key reforms.

The respective commitments defined above (a & b) must be implemented with a view to jointly contributing to: (i) improving governance structures and capacity that enable government, communities and forest operators to sustainably manage forests (ii) improving the populations' living conditions and reducing poverty, especially in rural areas, (iii) the sustainable management of natural resources, and (iv) strengthening conservation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and climate resilience of its forest ecosystems.

### **Article II. General principles of the LOI**

The following principles will form the foundation for all activities supported through CAFI:

1. Respect of rights and aspirations of all stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous peoples, will be taken into consideration at the start of the planning phase and during

implementation, which shall contribute to improved stakeholders livelihoods and promote gender equality;

2. Consistency with the DRC's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC);

3. Respect of principles of consultation, participation and transparency in the processes of design and implementation of interventions from the National REDD+ Framework Strategy and Investment Plan, with due regard to UN-REDD/FCPF Stakeholder engagement guidelines and national circumstances, while acknowledging and respecting the role and responsibilities of the State in final decisions. The practical modalities of stakeholder engagement in this context will be defined in a participatory manner in the roadmap validated by the national REDD+ Fund Steering committee before the 1st session of programmes approval;

4. Respect of the UNFCCC Warsaw Framework, including respect for the Cancun REDD+ social and environmental safeguards, and consistency with the DRC REDD+ national standards;

5. Consistency with the goals of the Paris Agreement of *“keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels; and to aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C”*.

### Article III. General Objectives

The Government of the DRC states its intention to achieve the following general objectives that align with the eight major results pursued by the National REDD+ Framework Strategy and Investment Plan and the REDD+ measures in the governance matrix of the DRC. These aim in effect to address, in a holistic and integrated manner, the various current and future drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the DRC whilst promoting and supporting the Cancun Safeguards and the DRC REDD+ standards. The following table details the general objectives on the basis of eight key outcomes that will all aim to respect both the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted in September 2015 and the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015.

<b>1. Agriculture</b>	
Develop and implement, in a participatory and transparent manner, an agricultural policy that contributes to rural development and national food security while limiting the current and future impact on forests;	
<b>2. Energy</b>	
Develop and implement, in a participatory and transparent manner, an energy policy of sustainable management of wood energy and partial substitute to the latter;	

<b>3. Forests</b>	
Develop and implement, in a participatory and transparent manner, a forest policy for sustainable management of forest resources by multiple stakeholders in the sector, including local and indigenous communities, with particular emphasis on forest law enforcement, governance and various local and community management models. DRC commits to strengthen oversight capacity in existing forest exploitation areas, and in areas where potential new concessions will be attributed, in order to apply the forest law.	
<b>4. Mining &amp; Hydrocarbons</b>	
Adopt and implement, in a participatory and transparent manner, REDD + standards for mining and hydrocarbon investments in forest areas in order to prevent, reduce and otherwise offset their impacts on forests;	
<b>5. Land-Use Planning</b>	
Develop and implement, in a participatory and transparent manner, a land-use policy that organizes and optimizes the use of land and forest resources by the various national economic sectors, in respect of rights recognized in the DRC legal system, to reduce its impact thereof on forests, reduce conflicts and ensure sustainable development at national and local level ;	
<b>6. Land Tenure</b>	
Develop and implement, in a participatory and transparent manner, a land-tenure policy that is equitable, - including with regard to gender, vulnerable people, local communities and indigenous peoples-, and that could ensure sustainable and non-confrontational management of land and clarification of tenure rights, with the goal of limiting the conversion of forest lands;	
<b>7. Population</b>	
Support the participatory implementation of the 2014-2020 National Multisectoral Strategic Plan on Family Planning;	
<b>8. Governance</b>	
Promote the alignment of interventions in the country by the national public sector and the national and international private sector on REDD+ objectives; ensure transparency and consolidation of information as well as law enforcement in sectors relevant to REDD+.	

The milestones associated with these general objectives, presented in Annex II, are an integral part of this Letter of Intent. The Letter of Intent and its milestones will guide the implementation of the Investment Plan, including its programming phase.

### **III. PARTNERSHIP IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES**

#### **Article IV. The contribution**

The Executive Board of CAFI, in its decision of 22 April 2016, approved an allocation of at least TWO HUNDRED MILLION US dollars (US\$ 200,000,000.00) over the period 2016 to 2020 representing the contribution of CAFI to the implementation of the DRC's National REDD + Framework Strategy and Investment Plan, including ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY MILLION US dollars (US\$ 190,000,000.00<sup>4</sup>) from the CAFI Fund and the parallel funding that could be added, in accordance with the criteria defined in Article VII, second paragraph. The allocation is subject to the fulfillment of the conditions in the CAFI Standard Administrative Arrangement including conditions relevant to availability of funds.

In accordance to the CAFI Fund Standard Administrative Agreement<sup>5</sup>, the request from the Minister of Finance of the DRC, in his capacity as Chairman of the National Fund Steering Committee to make sub-tranches available, will be based on the financial needs defined in the annual work plan of the REDD+ National Fund, its programmatic projections and the relevant financial and narrative reports from implementers.

The funding will be made available for programming under the DRC National Fund in two tranches, the first one of up to ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY MILLION US dollars (US\$ 120,000,000.00) from the signing of this Letter of Intent and in accordance with the tentative schedule included in ANNEX I, and a second one of up to EIGHTY MILLION US dollars (US\$ 80,000,000.00) dependent on independent verification as specified in ARTICLE X of the achievement of the intermediate milestones shown in ANNEX II.

The tentative schedule of Annex I can be modified to be consistent with programmatic delivery. Any change in the tentative schedule will not in itself affect the total amount of US\$ 120M\$/NOK 960M of the first tranche available to DRC.

#### **Article V. Efforts to mobilize external funding**

Given the great challenges of mitigation and adaptation to climate change linked to the forest in the DRC, CAFI declares its intention to continue the financial mobilization efforts in support of the implementation of the National REDD + Framework Strategy and Investment Plan.

#### **Article VI. Efforts to mobilize domestic funding**

The Government of the DRC declares its intention to explore the potential of various ways of longer-term mobilization of domestic contributions to finance the implementation of parts of the National REDD+

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<sup>4</sup> Corresponding to a maximum of 1,520 million Norwegian crowns (NOK 1,520,000,000))

<sup>5</sup> <http://mptf.undp.org/document/download/15192>

Framework Strategy and Investment Plan. A first stock-taking of this process will be made available by the end of 2018.

#### **Article VII. Efforts to align external funding**

CAFI member countries declare their intention to strengthen their efforts to align their current and future funding programmes in the DRC on the objectives of the National REDD+ Framework Strategy and Investment Plan and through the National Fund.

Parallel funding will consider the following criteria:

- Be new , additional and predictable;
- Be validated by the Steering Committee and the Contributor, that will decide on its alignment with the REDD+ National Strategy, according to the simplified procedures on parallel funding that will be established by the National Fund;
- Demonstrate that they contribute directly to achieving the objectives defined in the REDD+ Investment plan;
- Demonstrate consistency with the evaluation procedures of the Fund;
- Contribute to the functioning of the governance structures of the National Fund.

#### **Article VIII. Efforts to align domestic workplans and budgets**

The Government of the DRC declares its intention to progressively align its sectoral and intersectoral workplans and budgets with the objectives of its REDD+ National Framework Strategy and Investment plan.

#### **Article IX. Mechanism for disbursement to the National REDD+ Fund**

The Minister of Finance of the DRC, in his capacity as Chairman of the National Fund Steering Committee, will send a request for the release of each sub-tranche to the CAFI Executive Board, based on documented financial needs, fifteen working days before each date set in the tentative schedule attached as Annex I hereto.

The CAFI Executive Board will then, subject to the fulfillment of the conditions in the SAA, within twenty working days from the dates set in the tentative schedule in Annex I, instruct the Administrative Agent to effect the release of the tranche to the National Fund account located in New York City and managed by the Administrative Agent.

The Administrative Agent will, within five working days, inform the Chairman of the National Fund Steering Committee of the availability of the funds for purposes of the approval of the programme portfolio.



#### **Article X. Independent verification**

Both parties agree that the independent verification will comprise a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the level of achievement of the intermediate milestones shown in Annex II, according to three achievement criteria (i.e. full, partial, none). Only outcomes and milestones specified in Annex II will be evaluated. The independent verification will take into account whether potential parallel funding has been realized. Subsequent to the signing of this Letter of Intent, a methodology document will be jointly developed and approved by CAFI and the Government of the DRC, with a view to specifying the modalities of this independent milestone verification and the trigger for the second tranche.

#### **Article XI. Annual partnership monitoring**

The Government of the DRC and CAFI donor countries agree on at least one annual meeting to discuss progress of the implementation of the partnership.

#### **Article XII. Amendment to the Letter of Intent**

This Letter of Intent may be amended through an exchange of letters between the parties. The letters exchanged to this end shall then form an integral part of this Letter of Intent.

#### **Article XIII. Termination of partnership**

After consultation between the Government of the DRC and CAFI, this Letter of Intent may be terminated by each party. The Letter of Intent shall cease to be in effect thirty (30) days after one party has notified in writing the other party of its decision to terminate it.

However, those commitments on which implementation is already under way under project/programmes approved by the DRC National Fund Steering Committee will have to remain covered until complete fulfilment.

#### **Article XIV. Notification and communication**

Any notification or correspondence from the CAFI Executive Board to the Government will be sent together to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Environment.

Any notification or correspondence from the Government to the CAFI Executive Board will be addressed by the Ministry of Finance.

**Article XV. Entry into effect**

This Letter of Intent shall enter into effect upon signature by the parties concerned on the date of the last signature.

**Article XVI. RESERVE FOR MPTF**

The UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), the CAFI Fund administrative agent, confirms that on the date of signature of this Letter of Intent, the Standard Administrative Agreements signed with the donors are adequate<sup>6</sup> and in conformity with the tentative initial schedule attached as Annex I. The MPTF Office will inform the CAFI Executive Board and the Government of DRC within thirty (30) days of any modification to the SAAs which may affect the terms of this Letter of Intent.

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<sup>6</sup> Subject to the submission and assessment of the relevant reports, the demonstration of financial needs, the exchange rates at the time funds are received and the provision regarding parliamentary appropriations included in Annex B "Payment schedule" of the CAFI Fund Standard Administrative Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized thereto, have signed this Letter of Intent in English and French in duplicate.

**For the DRC**

H.E Henri Yav Mulang  
Minister of Finance  
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Date

**For CAFI**

H.E Vidar Helgesen  
Minister of Climate and Environment  
Kingdom of Norway

Jennifer Topping  
Executive Coordinator  
MultiPartner Trust Fund Office, UNDP

Date

Date

## Annex I. Tentative schedule of sub-tranches

DATE	CAFI funding (US\$)
July 2016	40 million
March 2017	40 million
March 2018	40 million
First Tranche Total	120 million
March 2019	40 million
March 2020	40 million
Second Tranche total	80 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>200 million</b>

The tentative schedule above includes potential parallel funding from France (up to US\$ 4.5 million) and from UK (up to approximately £6 million, equivalent to approximately US\$ 8.5 million from DFID)<sup>7</sup>. Additional parallel funding from CAFI members<sup>8</sup> could be proposed subsequently.

The release of sub-tranches is subject to the fulfillment of the conditions in the CAFI Standard Administrative Arrangement. The release of the potential parallel funds will be the subject of parallel agreement between the Contributors and the implementation partners.

The tentative schedule can be modified to be consistent with programmatic delivery. Any change in the tentative schedule will not in itself affect the total amount (US\$ 120M\$/ NOK 960M) of the first tranche made available to DRC.

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<sup>7</sup> To be confirmed jointly by the Steering Committee of the National Fund and the Contributor, as per the criteria presented in article VII.

<sup>8</sup> Including from the European Union, and in consideration of the criteria presented in Article VII

## Annex II. Milestones

**Objective 1. Agriculture** (US\$ 66.4 million<sup>9</sup> of which US\$ 48 million for integrated programmes): **Develop and implement, in a participatory and transparent manner, an agricultural policy that contributes to rural development and national food security while limiting the current and future impact on forests**

### 2020 Milestones

- a. Agricultural policy adopted, integrating REDD+ challenges and land-use principles, and promoting zero deforestation industrial agriculture supply chains, in accordance with globally recognized methodologies and standards that are currently under development at international level, in particular for the large scale commercial farms when land tenure issues can be addressed according to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Governance of Tenure of Land;
- b. Data related to the spatial development of commercial plantations are updated and published on a regular basis on the national internet portal Terra Congo.

### *Intermediate Milestones December 2018*

- a. Draft agricultural policy based on an updated diagnosis of agricultural challenges and opportunities, in particular related to forests, integrating transparent procedures for the allocation of agro-industrial concessions as well as guidelines for zero deforestation agro-industrial concessions, in accordance with globally recognized methodologies and standards that are currently under development at international level, as well as efforts to ensure local and indigenous communities' sustainable agricultural practices and limit the deforestation and forest degradation resulting from such smallholder agriculture;
- b. A system of satellite monitoring of the spatial development of commercial plantations integrated into the National System of Forest Monitoring (NSFM);
- c. System of agricultural guidance and input production/distribution in place in each REDD+ Integrated Programme by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> implementation year, for a broad dissemination of sustainable agriculture technologies favorable to sedentarization and conforming to zoning plans.

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<sup>9</sup> These figures and those indicated in the following objectives can be subject to revisions, upon discussion and approval of the CAFI Executive Board.

**Objective 2. Energy (US\$ 28 million of which US\$ 10.4 million for integrated programmes): Develop and implement, in a participatory and transparent manner, an energy policy for sustainable management of wood energy and partial substitute to the latter**

#### **2020 Milestones**

- a. Energy policy revised to include a sub-component aimed at sustainable management of wood-energy and developing alternatives to wood-energy;
- b. Improved cook stoves disseminated and made use of in 10% of households (weighted average) in Kinshasa and provincial capitals where integrated programmes have been implemented;
- c. Implementation of wood-energy projects around large urban centres, based on existing studies and pilots, acting along the full value chain in order to diversify supply away from natural forests (sustainable plantations and agroforestry), improve carbonization efficiency through adapted technologies, and supporting the necessary policy and regulatory reforms, etc.

#### *Intermediate Milestones December 2018*

- a. Completion of a feasibility study on alternative energies to substitute to wood-energy in urban areas, including renewable energies;
- b. Baseline studies conducted in Kinshasa and areas targeted by integrated programmes regarding energy production, consumption and efficiency in connection with the use of wood resources.

**Objective 3. Forests (US\$ 29.6 million of which US\$ 4 million for integrated programmes): Develop and implement, in a participatory and transparent manner, a forest policy for sustainable management of forest resources by multiple stakeholders in the sector, including local and indigenous communities, with particular emphasis on forest law compliance, governance and various local and community management models. DRC commits to strengthen oversight in existing forest exploitation areas and in the areas where potential new concessions will be attributed, in order to apply the forest law**

#### **2020 Milestones**

- a. Forest Code revision project, integrating advances and addressing challenges linked to sustainable industrial, artisanal and community forest management;
- b. Illegal logging stabilized by 2020 and rapidly reduced to reach low levels by 2030;
- c. Communication to UNFCCC of a Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL/FRL), for the areas covering the five current and former provinces of East and West Kasai, Nord and South Kivu and Maniema;
- d. Submission of Biannual Update Report (BUR) with updated results-based data on REDD+ activities in the areas covering the current and former provinces of Bandundu, Equateur, Orientale, East and West Kasai, Nord and South Kivu and Maniema, including an updated Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

### *Intermediate Milestones December 2018*

- a. Forest policy adopted, as a result of a transparent and participatory process with all relevant stakeholders. The Government commits to present by the end of 2016 a formal draft Forest policy that has been the subject of a first cycle of consultations of different relevant stakeholders;
- b. The promotion and implementation of various sustainable local and community forest management models, will be an integral part of the forest policy, with rigorous standards and in accordance with Objective 6.
- c. Application of the provisions of the Forest Code to all existing industrial forest concessions. Concessions without approved, or at least formally and transparently submitted, management plans according to the conditions and deadlines set by the law and regulations in force, will be returned to the State by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at the latest;
- d. Facilitate the establishment, by 2017, of an independent and operational auditing mechanism, that ensures the respect of legal provisions and regulations for the sustainable management of forest resources and whose reports are made public, and measures are taken to address non-conformity issues;
- e. An ambitious plan to fight illegal logging is elaborated, validated in a participatory way and progressively implemented, notably on the basis of the consideration of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the DRC and FLEGT to be promoted;
- f. The lifting of the Moratorium will depend upon the legal conditions defined in the Presidential Decree n° 05/116 dated 24 October 2005. The technical modalities for lifting the moratorium will integrate REDD+ and sustainable development objectives -including with regard to the geographic programming of future allocations at the three year horizon defined through a consultative process and in accordance with targeted land use planning at the relevant national and/or provincial level identifying the priority development zones of the forestry sector according ecological, geographic, economic, social and financial criteria, and taking into account climate change;
- g. In the context of the allocation of new industrial forest concessions, procedures planned in the Forest Code regarding (i) tendering, (ii) preliminary public inquiry and (iii) negotiations of the social clauses to the benefit of communities in the context of the specifications, will be implemented ensuring particularly high quality and transparency standards - including a declaration by representatives of neighboring communities notifying of their agreement in principle to initiate negotiations on the social clauses, as planned in the regulatory framework - and in accordance with Objective 6;
- h. Communication to UNFCCC of Forest Reference Emission Levels (FRELs/FRLs) for the territory covering the three former priority provinces (Bandundu, Equateur, Orientale). The submitted FREL/FRLs will be developed in close consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including CAFI partners;
- i. Publication on the Terra Congo platform of deforestation data generated at national level by the national forest monitoring system.

**Objective 4. Mining and hydrocarbon standards (US\$ 4.8 million of which US\$ 2.4 million for integrated programmes): Adopt and implement, in a transparent and participatory manner, REDD + standards for mining and hydrocarbon investments in forest areas in order to prevent, reduce and otherwise offset their impacts on forests**

**2020 Milestone**

REDD+ standards developed, adopted, disseminated and implemented, to provide a legal framework for mining and hydrocarbon investments in forest zones, and definition and piloting of an independent auditing mechanism.

*Intermediate Milestone December 2018*

- a. REDD+ standards developed based on existing legislation, including the framework law on environment.

**Objective 5. Land-Use Planning (US\$ 21.6 million of which US\$ 12 million for integrated programmes): Develop and implement, in a transparent and participatory manner, a land-use policy that organizes and optimizes the use of land and forest resources by the various national economic sectors, in respect of rights recognized in the DRC legal system, in order to reduce the impact thereof on forests, reduce conflicts and ensure sustainable development at national and local level**

**2020 Milestone**

A land-use planning policy respectful of forest resources and of local communities and indigenous peoples' rights and needs, and provincial land-use master plans developed in all the areas of integrated programmes and validated in at least three areas of integrated programmes.

*Intermediate Milestones December 2018*

- a. Baseline analyses completed in view of the development of a land-use planning policy integrating the objectives of the National REDD+ Framework Strategy;
- b. Methodological Guide developed, together with clear quality standards, for participatory zoning of village lands - including lands used and occupied by local communities and indigenous peoples - and territorial entities, within the framework of integrated programmes and based on already applied local planning approaches;
- c. A targeted effort to ensure that the geographical programming that is required to lift the moratorium on industrial forestry concessions will be realized in the framework of the land-use planning approach.



**Objective 6. Land Tenure** (US\$ 11.2 million of which US\$ 3.2 million for integrated programmes): **Develop and implement in a participatory and transparent manner a land-tenure policy that is equitable - including with regard to gender, vulnerable people, local communities and indigenous peoples-, and that could ensure the sustainable and non-conflictual management of land and the clarification of tenure rights, with the goal of limiting the conversion of forest lands**

#### **2020 Milestone**

Land-tenure policy adopted, being equitable - including with regard to gender, vulnerable people, local communities and indigenous peoples-, ensuring sustainable and non-conflictual management of land and the clarification of tenure rights, with the goal to limit the conversion of forest lands.

#### *Intermediate Milestones December 2018*

- a. CONAREF operational for the preparation and implementation of the land-tenure reform, integrating a dialogue on the clarification of the recognition and securement of local land-tenure rights;
- b. Methodological Guide developed to define provincial land-management strategies within the context of integrated programmes, following good international practices and national laws;
- c. Support local communities in their requests for various sustainable local and community forest management models and in securing land tenure rights, especially in the context of integrated programmes.

**Objective 7. Population** (US\$ 12 million of which US\$ 4 million for integrated programmes): **Support the participatory implementation of the National Multisectoral Strategic Plan for Family Planning, 2014-2020**

#### **2020 Milestone**

National Multisectoral Strategic Plan for Family Planning 2014-2020 implemented, allowing for an increased Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate in target areas as stipulated by the National Multisectoral Strategic Plan (at least 1.5% percentage point increase annually).

#### *Intermediate Milestone December 2018*

- a. Strategy to support integrated programme areas defined by the Permanent Multisector Technical Committees for family planning, based on needs assessments;
- b. Elaborate and implement by 2017 a plan to consult stakeholders (government, implementing organizations, donors working in the targeted health zones, and local leaders and civil society) on the causal interlinkages between demography, natural resource management and development, including in relation to DRC's stated objective to become an emerging economy by 2030;
- c. The National Communication Strategy on family planning and women education implemented, taking into account the stated objectives of the National Strategic Plan with Multisector Vision for Family Planning 2014-2020 and the Government goals toward the emerging economy by 2030.

**Objective 8. Governance (US\$ 26.4 million of which US\$ 8 million for integrated programmes): Promote the alignment of interventions in the country by the national and international public and private sectors on REDD+ objectives; ensure transparency and consolidation of information as well as law enforcement in areas relevant for REDD+**

#### **2020 Milestone**

A policy for the alignment of domestic and external interventions with the objectives of National REDD+ Framework Strategy and Investment Plan is defined.

#### *Intermediate Milestones December 2018*

- a. The results of REDD+ interventions are made available to the public in a transparent manner through annual reports published by the 1st trimester of the following year;
- b. Study on deforestation and forest degradation factors (drivers) in integrated programme target areas;
- c. Methodological Guide developed in a participatory manner specifying practices to be applied for consultations during integrated programme implementation and in connection with REDD+ tools;
- d. Strengthen spatial planning and natural resources management through various levels of appropriate territorial governance, through the operationalization of relevant multi-actor, multi-sector platforms for dialogue within the context of integrated programmes (such as the Rural Agricultural Management Councils), with mandate expanded, in the context of integrated programmes;
- e. Fully develop, by the end of 2016, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, a detailed risk analysis, with specific and effective mitigation measures aiming to ensure transparency, accountability and good governance in fiduciary management, including in the implementation of the investment portfolio of the national REDD+ Framework Strategy and the REDD+ Investment Plan.