

# THE CENTRAL AFRICAN FOREST INITIATIVE

SUPPORTING CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH HIGH FOREST COVER TO IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE, FIGHT POVERTY AND FULFILL THE POST-2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

## A partnership initiative

**Donors:** The European Union, Germany (current chair), Norway, the Netherlands, France and the Republic of Korea

**Partner countries:** the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, and the Republic of Gabon.

**Implementing partners:** AFD, ENABEL, FAO, GIZ, JICA, UNCDF, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNOPS, World Bank.

## Why focus on Central Africa?

Climate change and biodiversity loss are the defining challenges of our generation. No other phenomenon has the potential to change the face of our planet forever.

Rainforests stock and absorb carbon and are home to more than 50% of terrestrial biodiversity, while only covering 6% of the Earth's surface. No other ecosystem or economic sector has the same capacity to revert the unfolding climate and biodiversity crisis. Forests are also key for the survival of people living in and around them.

**Central Africa is one of the few remaining regions of the world that absorb more carbon than they emit.** It is home to the world's second largest rainforest, that sucks out close to 1.5 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> of the atmosphere or 4% of the world's emissions every year, and is home to more than 10,000 plant and animal species. This forest is 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.

[www.cafi.org](http://www.cafi.org)

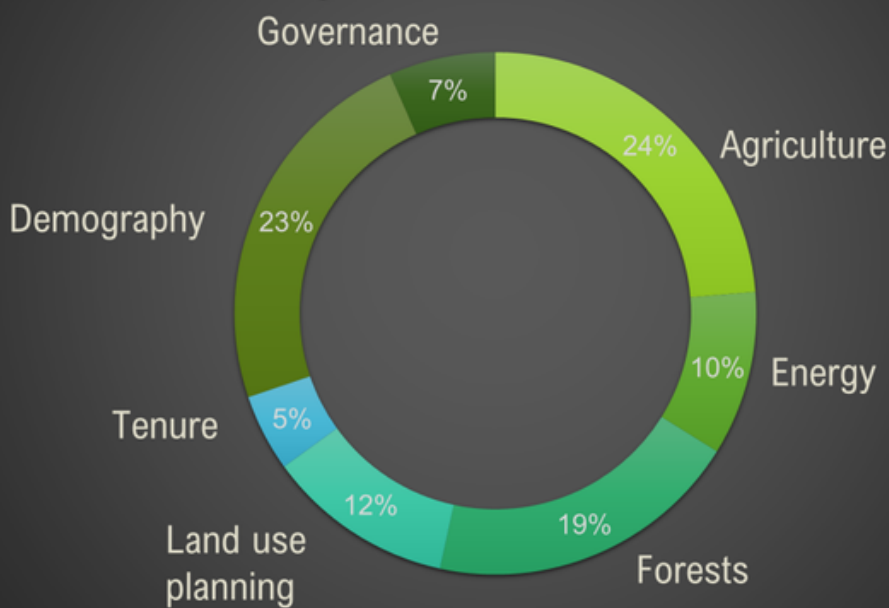


## How we work

CAFI was established in 2015 at the margins of the UN General Assembly by a coalition of donors and partner countries to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. The Initiative is both a **Trust Fund that supports direct investments on the ground** and a **political negotiation platform** that aims to drive high-level policy dialogue.

Our climate and development objectives will be attained through the implementation of **ambitious national investment frameworks that decouple development from deforestation**. Such socio-economic transformation will come from measures that properly address both direct drivers of deforestation (such as agriculture, wood energy, forestry and infrastructure/mining) and underlying drivers (such as lack of land use planning and insecure land tenure, poor governance and rapid population growth).

### Cumulative investments per outcome by 9 November 2020



## Our portfolio

- **DRC** : 17 active programmes, covering 8 sectors and worth 215 million US\$
- **Gabon** : 3 active programmes, covering 4 sectors and worth 30 million US \$, plus 150 million in the pipeline
- **Republic of Congo** : 2 closed preparatory grants, 9 programmes worth 65 million US\$ in the pipeline
- **Central African Republic**: feasibility studies and support to intersectoral coordination
- **Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea**: preparatory grants to develop national investment frameworks
- **Regional** : study on trends and drivers of deforestation and degradation in the Central African region.

## Fund status

493 M US\$ in fund commitments  
202 M US\$ disbursed  
27 programs funded

## Main successes

CAFI signed a 150 M US\$ landmark agreement with Gabon for results-based payments to compensate for emission reductions, with first payment in 2021.

President Macron of France (on behalf of the CAFI Presidency) & President Sassou of the Republic of Congo signed a 65 M US\$ Partnership agreement

Programmes currently ongoing in the Democratic Republic of Congo alone cover 8 sectors and are expected to reduce CO2 emissions by 45 million tons and improve livelihoods for millions of people.