

Annex 11 Monitoring and evaluation plans

RACINE PROJECT - Green Climate Fund

MINEPAT

This plan covers monitoring, verification and learning (MEL). A credible, transparent and adaptive implementation framework is essential to ensure the effectiveness, accountability and scalability of climate-aligned investments. M&E plan focuses on strengthening the monitoring, verification and learning systems. The system also anticipates the need to meet the monitoring requirements of the EUDR implementation criteria. It builds on the digital architecture of the FODECC system to establish a robust monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) framework capable of tracking deforestation compliance, environmental performance and the adoption of climate-smart practices by farmers.

This MEL plan is vital to the success of RACINE because the CAFI Trust Fund, the project's main co-financier, offers its support in the form of results-based payments. No advances will be made; CAFI will make ex-post payments based on the verified performance of the FODECC windows.

The overall objectives are therefore to achieve transparent, accountable and independently verified climate and environmental results, with knowledge sharing for replication.

The budget of the M&E plan is **6,841,000 euros** including 3,840,000 euros in grants and 1,750,000 euros in loans from GCF complemented by 1,251,000 euros in CAFI grants from CAFI.

There 3 outputs under this plan:

- MEL Output.1. Strengthened data and MRV systems for results-based management.
- MEL Output 2. Facilitate knowledge generation and South-South learning for the replication of SLLs
- MEL Output 3. Independent scientific monitoring of impacts on agroforestry systems and deforestation.

MEL Output.1. Strengthened data and MRV systems for results-based management.

This first set of activities aims to consolidate and expand the digital and institutional infrastructure needed to monitor, verify and manage the performance of the Producer Window system and the broader Sustainability-Linked Lending (and Granting) mechanism (SLL).

This essentially involves continuously improving the FODECC digital platform, which manages the registration of farmers, cooperatives, microfinance institutions, input distributors, nursery operators, etc., with their identification, geolocation, plot georeferencing, financial flows, material flows and service flows, and the traceability of funds and products. By strengthening this system with advanced data integration and analysis capabilities, it will be possible to better monitor financial flows and environmental outcomes in real time, including compliance with deforestation-free production requirements.

In order to ensure accountability and eligibility for future CAFI disbursements, RACINE also introduces a robust monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) framework aligned with CAFI

and GCF standards, anticipating the information and control requirements of the RDUE implementation criteria.

Capacity building in MRV will not only improve the governance of activities, but also generate highly reliable data, which is essential for demonstrating climate impact, mobilising additional funding and enabling the future replication of actions. Through these activities, the project ensures that the transition to results-based financing is based on rigorous, scalable and transparent systems. The planned activities are as follows:

The monitoring, reporting, and evaluation framework for the RACINE project consists of three components: internal monitoring by FODECC, standard evaluation processes, and independent verification linked to CAFI's results-based payments.

Internal Monitoring (FODECC):

FODECC, the main implementing agency, is responsible for generating reliable data and reporting quality results. The monitoring, evaluation and learning plan emphasizes strengthening its capacity in measurement, reporting, and verification to ensure accuracy and transparency.

Standard Evaluation Processes (MINEPAT):

MINEPAT can conduct monitoring and evaluation based on real-time data collected through FODECC's digital platform. This system tracks key indicators defined in the results framework. This information will feed into annual performance reports which will allow GCF to assess progress and identify gaps. A mid-term evaluation will allow strategic adjustments, while a final evaluation will measure impact and sustainability at project completion.

NB: these activities are not budgeted here as they are covered by the AE fee.

Independent Verification and CAFI Payments:

In line with CAFI Board Decision [EB.2024.33](#), the core of this framework is the annual verification of FODECC results by an independent body using an ISO 14000-compliant methodology (currently under development and expected by September 2026). This methodology will draw on selected indicators from the proposal's logical framework and define procedures for measuring, reporting, and verifying results, as well as determining the payment per unit achieved. It will be validated by the independent verifier before the project document is signed between CAFI and MINEPAT and shared with the Green Climate Fund.

Based on this methodology, the independent verifier will issue an annual recommendation on the payment to be made by CAFI to MINEPAT, which will then transfer the funds to FODECC.

CAFI, as the main co-financier, applies a performance-based financing model without advance payments. Disbursements are made only after independent verification of results, transferring performance risk to FODECC. Each year, an independent auditor verifies the indicators and recommends payment amounts to MINEPAT, which channels the funds to FODECC. The methodology governing indicators, measurement, and payments will be included in a performance-based payment agreement between MINEPAT and CAFI.

The independent verification process ensures the accuracy and completeness of reported results through five structured steps conducted annually:

The independent verification process ensures the accuracy and completeness of reported results through five structured steps **carried out annually**:

Step 1: Kick-off Meeting and Document Submission

The process begins with a kick-off meeting involving CAFI, the accredited entity (MINEPAT), the implementing entity (FODECC), and the independent verifier. This meeting clarifies the mission's scope, criteria, materiality threshold, assurance level, and timeline. Ideally, all relevant documentation and reported results should be submitted to the verifier beforehand to facilitate the next stages.

Step 2: Document Review and Field Visit Planning

The verifier reviews reported results, supporting evidence, and data from the PSE management tool to preliminarily assess achievement of indicators. If additional information is required, MINEPAT and/or FODECC must provide it promptly. Based on this review, the verifier prepares a kick-off report (verification plan) aligned with ISO 14064-3:2019 standards. This report outlines objectives, scope, sampling plan, indicators, significance thresholds, assurance level, audit activities, timelines, and logistics for field visits, including sites, interviewees, documents, and special topics. The accredited and implementing entities assist in planning logistics.

Step 3: Field Visit and Interviews

The verifier conducts on-site assessments to validate reported results against indicators. Activities include site reconnaissance, review of RACINE initiative activities, stakeholder interviews (participants, aggregators), staff consultations, examination of databases and quality assurance procedures, ground verification using GPS or remote sensing, and discussions with third parties (local authorities, NGOs, banks). A closing meeting concludes the visit, presenting observations and next steps.

Step 4: Analysis of Field Visit

Post-visit, the verifier performs a final analysis to confirm indicator achievement and compiles outstanding issues. Findings are processed per audit methodology, and conclusions are shared with CAFI and implementing entities. Any clarifications are addressed through follow-up communications.

Step 5: Drafting the Verification Report

The final report, in English and French, details the verification approach and results. It includes quantified achievements, compliance assessment, assurance opinion, and recommendations for improving performance and reporting. It also informs CAFI's payment decisions based on verified results, as per PRODOC guidelines. After review by CAFI, MINEPAT, and FODECC, the report is published and shared with the Green Climate Fund. CAFI communicates payment decisions within 15 days, and disbursements occur within 21 days if accepted. This process is repeated annually or upon disbursement requests.

By ensuring annual verification of results by a third party and deploying digital tools for real-time monitoring of financial flows and environmental results, this component addresses the main risks often associated with traditional projects, such as underperformance, low absorption capacity and corruption. At the same time, this component supports the production of

operational lessons learned and the documentation of best practices, enabling adaptive management and course corrections throughout the project cycle.

Impact of verification on CAFI Disbursements:

Verification outcomes determine payments:

1. Poor (<30%) – No disbursement. Potential project closure.
2. Average (30–70%) – Partial payment; corrective actions required within one year., Proportional payment; remedial measures recommended.
4. Excellent (>90%) – Full payment

This system promotes accountability, quality results, and stakeholder empowerment.

MEL output 2. Facilitate knowledge generation and South-South learning for the replication of SLLs

M&E plan also facilitates South-South knowledge exchange to support the replication of the SLL model throughout the Congo Basin. By transforming the "Producers' Window" approach into a regionally recognised innovation, this component contributes to a broader paradigm shift towards scalable, results-based financing for climate-resilient and deforestation-free agricultural development, as well as the possibility of implementing the system/approach in other CAFI countries.

MEL Output 2 is dedicated to collecting, consolidating and sharing knowledge generated by the implementation of Cameroon's first sustainability-linked loan (SLL) for deforestation-free and climate-resilient cocoa and coffee production. Recognising that innovation must be both effective and replicable, this outcome facilitates the documentation of lessons learned, best practices and operational models, particularly those related to digital finance, traceability, MRV and performance-based incentives. These lessons will inform the ongoing project while serving as a strategic resource for other countries seeking to design similar mechanisms.

Through targeted knowledge products, learning events, and South-South exchange visits, the project will actively contribute to regional dialogue and capacity building in CAFI partner countries (and beyond). Particular emphasis will be placed on peer learning among public institutions, financial intermediaries, and implementing agencies involved in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable supply chains. By integrating this outcome into the project design, Cameroon's SLL becomes not only a national pilot project, but also a regional public good, accelerating the dissemination of highly integrated, results-oriented financing models in the Congo Basin and other tropical forest regions. The following activity will be implemented:

MEL Output 3. Independent scientific monitoring of impacts on agroforestry systems and deforestation

MEL Output 3. goes beyond the monitoring and evaluation work mentioned above by taking an independent scientific approach aimed at conducting parallel monitoring of a sample of plots and farms that have benefited from the support of the Producers Window and a control sample that has not. This randomised control mechanism conducted by IRAD (and CIRAD) will enable

ex-post lessons to be learned on the measurable impacts observed over time on farms. The aim is to objectively verify whether the technical and financial support provided through the Producers' Desk actually translates into improvements in product and production quality, as well as household income and the well-being of their members.

Additionally, an scientific assessment of the guichet system on deforestation will be conducted by the University of Montreal Geography Department.

Table 1. Activities of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning plan.

Activities	Description	Sub-activities	Deliverables
Activity 3.1.1 Strengthening the information and management system for the various components of the Producers' Desk	Consolidate the FODECC digital platform to ensure integrated management of data relating to producers, cooperatives, input distributors and financial institutions. This activity aims to strengthen the traceability of financial and material flows, improve the geolocation of plots and ensure real-time monitoring of environmental and production performance.	Sub-activity 3.1.1.1. Technical review of the existing system and definition of development needs. Sub-activity 3.1.1.2. Integration of additional modules Sub-activity 3.1.1.3. Capacity building for administrators and users Sub-activity 3.1.1.4. Implementation of a consolidated dashboard for monitoring key indicators (production, environment, inclusion).	Improved and interoperable FODECC digital platform. Updated user manual. Quarterly performance reports. .
Activity 3.1.2 Establishment of a robust MRV (monitoring, reporting and verification) framework	Establish an integrated MRV framework that complies with CAFI, GCF and EU Deforestation Regulation requirements. The system will monitor environmental compliance, financial performance and the adoption of climate-smart practices through harmonised indicators.	Sub-activity 3.1.2.1. Define MRV protocols, indicators and baselines. Sub-activity 3.1.2.2. Train technical units (MINEPAT, FODECC, etc.) in the use of the tools. Sub-activity 3.1.2.3. Ensure regular data collection and verification. Sub-activity 3.1.2.4. Produce consolidated reports for CAFI, GCF and national partners.	Institutionalised and validated MRV framework. Performance indicators integrated into the FODECC system. Periodic MRV reports produced. National staff trained in MRV standards.
Activity 3.1.3 Annual independent verification of project results (ISO 14000)	Ensure independent verification of the project's environmental and financial performance, using methodologies based on the ISO 14000 standard. This activity aims to enhance the transparency, trust and credibility of the results-based financing mechanism.	Sub-activity 3.1.3.1 Select an accredited third-party firm. Sub-activity 3.1.3.2. Define the annual verification plan and audit criteria Sub-activity 3.1.3.3. Carry out on-site and documentary verification missions. Sub-activity 3.1.3.4. Disseminate verification	Annual audit reports validated. Continuous improvement action plans implemented. Database of non-conformities and corrective measures. Dissemination of compliance results.

		reports and corrective action plans.	
Activity 3.2.1 Facilitate knowledge production and South-South learning for model replication	Promote knowledge capitalisation and inter-country learning to disseminate the SLL (Sustainability-Linked Loans) model and innovations resulting from the RACINE initiative.	Sub-activity 3.2.1.1 Document lessons learned and good practices from the Producers' Desk and PES in general. Sub-activity 3.2.1.2. Organise national, regional and international workshops to share experiences. Sub-activity 3.2.1.3. Produce methodological guides, technical data sheets and capitalisation notes. Sub-activity 3.2.1.4. Facilitate South-South exchange and training visits (CAFI countries as well as other countries around the world).	Capitalisation reports and thematic summaries. Training modules and teaching materials distributed. South-South exchange workshops and missions carried out. Operational digital knowledge-sharing platform.
Activity 3.3.1. Ensure independent scientific monitoring of impacts on agroforestry systems	Conduct parallel measurements of impacts on cocoa and coffee agroforestry systems on a sample of plots and farms that have received support from the Producer Window and compare them with a control sample (without support) in the various target regions.	Sub-activity 3.3.1.1: Produce a methodological guide based on a randomised control of a representative sample of agroforestry systems Sub-activity 3.3.1.2: Ensure periodic monitoring of farm results based on the use of digital tools and random physical checks Sub-activity 3.3.1.3: Produce an annual report monitoring the impacts on the evolution of agroforestry systems, production and household incomes	Methodological guide Training modules and digital information collection tools Field monitoring missions Monitoring mission reports Annual comparative monitoring reports on the impacts on cocoa and coffee agroforestry systems, yields,

Monitoring				
Data/Source	Collection Tool	Frequency	Indicator	Indicative Budget (in euros)*
See MRV Data and Sources thumbnail 12 under Annex 22 excel file for details - Cocoa yield (t/ha); - Area expansion avoided; Emission factor for forest conversion;	See MRV Data and Sources thumbnail 12 under Annex 22 excel file for details - Yield surveys and production data collection; - Land-use monitoring through spatial analysis	See MRV Data and Sources thumbnail 12 under Annex 22 excel file for details - Annual - Annual - Annual - Every 3 years (project years 3, 6,	Core 1: GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered MA1 Preventing deforestation and degradation via intensification MA2 Use of chemical fertilizers to sustain the intensification	1,150,000 euros

Leakage monitoring area 3. NPK applied (kg/ha); urea applied (kg/ha); area covered (ha). area switched to organic (ha); synthetic-fertilizer substitution; organic feedstock type & volume (geo-tagged procurement records). 4. Supported area (ha); Additional trees planted; Survival rate; Per-tree factor; Standing stock 5. Area restored (ha); biomass increments 6. Trees planted; Survival rate; Per-tree factor; Surviving trees	3. Activity data: farm input records + farmer surveys + EUDR geo-polygon mapping (verify quantities & area). 4. Field inventories (tree count, DBH); stratified sample sized for $\pm 10\%$ at 90% CI; QA/QC = double data entry + 10% independent re-measurement; data stored in FODECC/CAFI registry 5. AGB/BGB: field biomass plots (Cardinael et al. 2018 method); stratified sample $\pm 10\%$ at 90% CI; QA/QC double entry + 10% re-measurement; FODECC/CAFI data governance. 6. Tree count and survival census; $\pm 10\%$ at 90% CI on sampled segments; QA/QC re-measurement; municipal + FODECC registry	9, 12, 15, 18 and 20) 5. <i>Idem as 4</i> 6. <i>Idem as 4</i>	MA3 Switching to organic fertilizers MA4 Carbon stock enhancement via increased tree density MA5 Reforestation and landscape restoration" MA6 Urban greening and riverbank protection	
FODECC database;	<i>Government data/records</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Core 2: Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached	<i>200,000 euros</i>
FODECC database (G3)	<i>Government data/records</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Supplementary 2.1: Beneficiaries (female/male) adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood options	<i>200,000 euros</i>
FODECC database	<i>GIS data</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Core 4: Hectares of natural resources brought under improved low-emission and/or climate-resilient management practice	<i>200,000 euros</i>
Official texts and decrees published (Official Journal, institutional websites) PF-CAFI/MINEPAT reports Minutes of the Interministerial Committee (MINEPAT, MINEPDED, MINADER, MINFI)	<i>Government data/records</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Number of policies, regulatory frameworks and national plans explicitly incorporating sustainability requirements (zero deforestation, traceability, climate resilience) in the cocoa/coffee sector.	<i>0</i>
Official texts institutionalising the system (decrees, interministerial decisions); Functional national platform hosted by a public institution;	<i>Document review</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Existence and operationalisation of a national traceability system for cocoa and coffee, in accordance with the European Union	<i>0</i>

PF-CAFI technical reports on development and implementation; EUDR compliance audit reports or independent assessments; Geolocated producer registers and interoperable databases (ONCC, CICC, exporters).			Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), ensuring the geolocation of plots and verification of the legality of supply chains.	
PLADDT validation decrees; Participatory validation reports (minutes, attendance lists, public consultation reports); FODECC reports attesting to technical support and co-financing (Guichet Collectivité). Cartographic files (georeferenced maps, ecological and agricultural zoning);	<i>GIS data</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Number of rural municipalities with validated and operational PLADDTs, incorporating deforestation-free production targets, participatory planning and ecological zoning compatible with EUDR compliance.	198,875 euros
FODECC database (Producers Window) FODECC financial reports SPS contracts signed and validated.	<i>Public expenditure reporting</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Cumulative amount (USD) of payments for environmental services transferred to producers, cooperatives and municipalities through FODECC windows under the PSE mechanism.	198,875 euros
FODECC database; agroecological transition plan databases; validated PLADDTs;	<i>GIS data</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Area (ha) of agricultural and forest land managed sustainably under the national PSE mechanism through the Producers Window, including: (i) agroecological transition plans, (ii) municipal PLADDTs, (iii) co-financed green investments.	198,875 euros
Producers Window database (G1/a-ebon and G1/b-PA components); Co-financing contracts for signed business plans (G1/b-PA); PF-CAFI reports; Beneficiary database (socio-economic profile, gender, age)	<i>Government data/records</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Number of cocoa and coffee producers benefiting from subsidies from the Production Window (G1/a-ebon and G1/b-PA) for intensification without forest expansion, and cumulative amount (USD) of payments made through these sub-windows (broken down by farm size, gender and age group)	198,875 euros
FODECC database;	<i>GIS data</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Area (ha) of sustainably intensified cocoa and coffee orchards on existing farms (broken down by crop and type of farm)	198,875 euros
FODECC database (G2/a component – Local authorities), Acceptance reports Communal project monitoring reports.	<i>Field observation visits</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Number of post-harvest processing centres built, equipped and operational in accordance with quality and traceability standards	198,875 euros

FODECC financial reports, Contracts, payment tracking platform.	<i>Public expenditure reporting</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Cumulative amount (USD) of business plans co-financed by the G2/b-Coop component that have been validated and implemented (broken down by type of cooperative/EIG, size and gender of management).	198,875 euros
FODECC database; Sector statistics (ONCC)	<i>Survey/questionnaire</i>	<i>Annual</i>	Annual volume of cocoa and coffee processed in the post-harvest processing centres of equipped CTDs (tonnes/year)	198,875 euros

*The overall cost of all monitoring requirements including information and management systems and technical assistance from CAFI for the various components of the Producers' Window, including a MRV (monitoring, reporting, and verification) framework aligned with the requirements of CAFI and GCF is **3,341,000 euros**. This cost is split across the various indicators that will be monitored and reported.

Evaluation			
Type	Timing	Independent/Self-evaluation	Indicative Budget (in euros)
<i>Verification of results achieved conditioning CAFI disbursements</i>	Annual	Independent	540,000 euros (Funded by CAFI, see budget line 73)
<i>The impacts of the Producers Window grant scheme are monitored by independent scientists</i>	Once	Independent	2,200,000 euros (Funded by GCF grants, see budget line 76)
<i>Mid-term evaluation</i>	Once	Independent	193,900 euros Covered under AE fee
<i>Final Evaluation</i>	Once	Independent	150,000 euros Covered under AE fee
<i>Choose an item.</i>		<i>Choose an item.</i>	