



**23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Bonn (7 to 18 November 2017)**

**High level Side Event - BULA ZONE 3  
14 November 2017 from 6p.m. to 7.30p.m  
Venue: Lieu : Meeting Room de Brum**

**High Level Session: Who pays for Congo Basin Rainforest Conservation?**

**Who would pay for the conservation of the Congo Basin forests given their contribution to the balance of the global climate system!**

During the COP23/CMP13, the COMIFAC and Congo Basin Climate Commission Pavilion will host thematic days in line with the Paris call for Climate action. To the extent possible, side events will be scheduled following those themes. Furthermore, Member-States of COMIFAC and organizations will have a chance to promote their work relating to climate change by sharing information in a public space, accessible to all accredited participants, inside the COMIFAC and Congo Basin Climate Commission Pavilion.

**Organizers: COMIFAC**

**Chair of side event: Acting President of COMIFAC**

The aim of this high-level side event which will gather the ministers of the COMIFAC member countries and other country Parties, ECCAS and representatives of international organizations, is to showcase the countries' efforts in the area of conservation, sustainable management and its contribution to the fight against climate change.

The event will unfold in three parts: an introduction, a technical segment and a high-level panel

**Moderator: M. Patrice LEFEU., Executive Director, EY, Europe, Middle East, Africa and India R&D & innovation Funding, Climate financial mechanisms and Public Funding Efficiency leader**

### **Welcome statement and opening remarks - 15 minutes**

This part will include welcome statements and opening remarks:

- Opening remarks of the COMIFAC Executive Secretary (5mn)
- Opening remarks of the Partners' Representative (5mn).
- Opening remarks of His Excellency Mr. Vincent BIRUTA, Minister of Environment, Rwanda, Acting President of COMIFAC (5mn)

### **Technical Segment - 20 minutes**

- Policy Brief: NDC in Central Africa State of Art and next steps (5mn)
- Policy Brief: Climate Finance – State of Art and next steps - Gervais Itsoua Madzous, Deputy Executive Secretary of COMIFAC (5mn)
- Official launch of the Congo Basin Commission Climate by Her Excellency, Mrs Arlette Sudan NONAULT, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Congo, Congo Basin Climate Commission Presidency
- How can capacity building boost project bankability for the preservation of carbon sinks by Mohamed Nbou, Director of the Permanent Secretariat of the PCCB and of 4C Maroc.

### **High-level Panel - 30 min**

**Dialogue between ministers and partners on climate finance and Central Africa: Increasing financial support to address mitigation and adaptation challenges**

This second part will feature a high-level panel including panelists such as the Ministers of Forests and/or of the Environment of the ECCAS-COMIFAC countries, representatives of CAFI, GCCA, the Green

Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, GEF, the World Bank, BDEAC, and the AfDB.

**Opening remarks (5mn) (tbc):**

- Green Climate Fund (**GCF**) representative
- Global Environment Facility (**GEF**) representative
- **Adaptation Fund** representative
- Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (**NICFI**) - representative
- Agence Française de Développement (**AFD**) representative
- African Development Bank (**AfDB**) representative
- **World Bank** representative
- Central African Forest Initiative (**CAFI**) representative
- Development Bank of Central African States (**BDEAC**) representative.

**These presentations will be followed by an interactive session between the panelists and the Ministers. The following ministers will be called upon to deliver a 3mn keynote speech:**

- **His Excellency Mr. Amy AMBATOBÉ NYONGOLO**, Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development of the DRC (MEDD),
- **Her Excellency, Mrs Arlette Sudan NONAULT**, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Congo, Congo Basin Climate Commission Presidency,
- **His Excellency Mr. Pierre HELE**, Minister of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development of Cameroon (MENEPDED),
- **His Excellency Honourable Dr Vincent BIRUTA**, Minister of Environment, Rwanda.

- **His Excellency, Salaheddine Mezouar**, President of COP 22, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Finance Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco

**Potential issues at the heart of the discussions will be addressing the following points:**

- The current level of funding from climate funding mechanisms being directed towards the Congo Basin: (1) funding mechanism in the framework of the UNFCCC: Private Sector: JI and CDM - non market-based: GCF, Adaptation Fund, GEF/LDCF, SCCF - (2) A funding mechanism besides the UNFCCC: FCPF, CIFs: CTF, CWS (FIP, SREP, PPCR), Carbon Fund (PMR, Biocarbon Fund), ACCF, CBFF, GEEREF, UNREDD, Blue Fund prospects for the Congo Basin...
- Article 5 of the Paris agreement introduces recognition of the role of carbon sinks and the need to preserve them in light of their crucial role in maintaining the global climate balance. How can these new provisions lead to the emergence of a new paradigm of "Paid Smog Busters"?
- Funding needs of Central African countries in the area of climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Prospects of an increase in the current share of funding allocated to the Congo Basin countries.
- What are the ways of mobilizing sovereign wealth funds, including those in the Middle East and China?

**Summary, findings and recommendations from the side event** - By the moderator (5min)

**Central African Forest Commission:** <http://www.comifac.org/>

It is the main political and technical body responsible for policy, coordination, harmonization and decision-making in the conservation

and sustainable management of forest and savannah ecosystems in Central Africa. It follows up adherence to the Yaounde Declaration and ensures implementation of international conventions and forest development initiatives in Central Africa. The legal framework for COMIFAC is embodied in the “Treaty on conservation and sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems”. The COMIFAC convergence plan defines a common intervention strategy for the Central African countries and their international development partners in the area of conservation and sustainable management of forest and savannah ecosystems.


The legal basis for the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) was laid down in 1999 through the Yaoundé Declaration, which was formulated during the Summit of the Heads of State of Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Central African Republic. The Declaration recognizes the protection of the Congo basin ecosystems as an essential component of the development process and reaffirms the signatories' commitment to work together to promote sustainable use of the Congo Basin's forest ecosystems.


The Conference of Forestry Ministers of Central Africa (COMIFAC), later known as the "Central African Forest Commission", received a mandate to coordinate and monitor efforts to implement the Declaration in the region.

The COMIFAC Convergence Plan, adopted by the Central African Heads of State in 2005, defines a common regional intervention strategy for the countries in the subregion and their international development partners. The Convergence Plan was developed and adopted during the Brazzaville Summit. It was revised and adopted in July 2014, during an extraordinary COMIFAC Ministers' council. The Convergence Plan outlines planned actions for sustainable forest management and conservation in Central Africa, including regional, national and transboundary initiatives. The plan's strategies include harmonizing forest and tax policies, developing alternative forest activities, and reducing poverty through sustainable forestry-based livelihoods. CBFP members were allocated responsibility for leading and contributing to each theme at various levels.

**Available for download :**

## **Climate Finance**

 [Climate finance Policy Brief - CBFP- 12 OCT17 -FRENCH.pdf](#)  
(170.6 KiB)

 [Climate Finance Policy Brief - CBFP-October 2017\\_Final\\_EN.pdf](#)  
(196.4 KiB)

## **NDC/CDN**

 [NDC Policy brief - Central Africa- ENGLISH.pdf](#) (146.2 KiB)

 [NDC Policy brief - Central Africa-FRENCH.pdf](#) (157.1 KiB)