

Facilitator's Report on the German CBFP Facilitation 2007-2010

Introduction:

As there is at present no agreed reporting format to be used by a voluntary regional cooperation network such as the CBFP, this document tries to combine a complete overview on the actions undertaken by the German facilitation (Nov 2007 – September 2010) with some preliminary assessments of results from the German perspective. Where suitable, it provides references to more detailed documents. The report is based on the priority work areas and activities identified in the “road map” proposed by the German facilitation to the CBFP, which was agreed at the plenary meeting in October 2007 in Paris. It also includes a number of CBFP related activities of the German Development Cooperation in the Congo Basin, as far as they supported the role of the facilitation.

1: STRENGTHENING OF COMIFAC INSTITUTIONS AND THE CBFP

1.1. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TO THE COMIFAC ES AND PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

The COMIFAC support office (Bureau d'appui/BA) serves during the German facilitation and beyond as the principal tool for attaining the goals of this priority area. More partners will be actively encouraged to join the BA and to follow its methodological approach.

- i. Reforming and strengthening the **COMIFAC partner institutions** (ADIE,CEFDHAC,OCFSA,OAB,RAPAC) responsible for implementing the Convergence Plan, through continued policy dialogue within the partnership;
- ii. Implementing a sustainable **financial mechanism for COMIFAC**, as the key element of institutional reform, with due consideration of CEEAC/ECCAS and autonomous options;
- iii. Launching the **COMIFAC monitoring and evaluation system**, with particular emphasis on preparing the Status of the Central African Forests report in 2008;
- iv. Strengthening **COMIFAC national coordination points**, which constitute essential interfaces between the executive secretariat and COMIFAC member countries, based on an analysis of their technical and financial assistance needs;
- v. **Strengthening subregional coordination** and the positioning of the subregion in the international forest dialogue, profiting from the existing working groups on CCC, CBD, UNFF and FLEGT.

Actions and achievements

i – Reforming COMIFAC partner institutions

- CEFDHAC: Supported implementation of CEFDHAC reform, facilitation of national forums in all COMIFAC members countries and two Regional Steering Committees
- RIFFEAC: supported implementation of RIFFEAC action plan and capacity building
- REPAR: supported consolidation of regional

Related documents (click or copy for your browser)

- http://www.cbfp.org/docs/rapports_act/ccr%20brazzaville2008/pinacortez_reformescefdhac.pdf
- http://www.cbfp.org/docs/rapports_act/plenierevaunderatelier1_reformeCEFDHAC.pdf
- <http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/CEFDHACcommit-pilotage.html>
- http://www.cbfp.org/tl_files/archive/evenements/reunion_CEFDHAC_novembre_2007.pdf
- <http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/InWEnt-RIFFEAC-partenariat-F.html>;
- <http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/RIFFEAC-InWEnt-F.html>
- http://www.cbfp.org/evenements_fr/events/RIFFEAC-ateliepolitiqueformationforesti%C3%A8re-1.html
- <http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/REPAR-BATA-F.html>

group of parliamentarians REPAR - CEFHDAC

- Support to COMIFAC GT PASR/LCD: Partnered signature of agreement between GM and COMIFAC, identification of pilot projects
- Supported COMIFAC working groups/tasks force on biodiversity, climate, and FLEGT.

http://www.dfp.org/evènements_fr/events/atelierfinancesgestiondurable-doualacomifac.html

http://www.dfp.org/docs/rapports_act/pleniereyao unde/atelier4_walter_mecanisme mondial.pdf

==> for further information please check the corresponding priorities on the implementation of international conventions and forest governance

ii – COMIFAC reform and financing mechanism

- Supported preparation and organisation of the Sept. 2008 Council of Ministers in Bangui and Oct. 2008 extraord. Council of Ministers in Brazzaville, provided advisory support to new presidency
- Facilitated informal ministerial meeting Mai 2009 in Libreville on Climate Change Negotiations, effects of the Financial Crisis on Timber Trade & COMIFAC reform agenda
- Promoted coordination role of COMIFAC with various technical and financial partners during the conception/implementation of new programmes and initiatives (COMIFAC Support Platform).
- Analysis of organisational strengthening and institutional reform of COMIFAC
- Supported the concertation between COMIFAC and partner institutions in 2009
- Supported extraordinary. COMIFAC/CEEAC Ministerial Meeting on REDD+ & COMIFAC funding, Sept.2009 Kinshasa
- Lobbying and continuous awareness raising to keep issue of COMIFAC financing scheme on political agenda

http://www.dfp.org/news_en/items/5thsession-comcomifac.html

<http://www.comifac.org/la-comifac-1/communique-final-de-la-session-ordinaire-du-conseil-des-ministres-de-la-comifac-du-09-au-11-septembre-2008-a-bangui-rca;>

http://www.dfp.org/news_en/items/comifac-councilbrazzaville.html;

<http://www.comifac.org/la-comifac-1/communique-final-de-la-session-extraordinaire-du-conseil-des-ministres-de-la-comifac-du-26-27-octobre-2008-a-brazzaville-congo>

<http://www.dfp.org/actualites/items/concertation-ministres-Libreville-fr.html>

http://www.dfp.org/docs/rapports_act/pleniereyao unde/atelier1_introductionSECOMIFAC.pdf

http://www.dfp.org/docs/rapports_act/ccr%20brazzaville2008/falkenberg_bureauappui comifac.pdf
http://www.dfp.org/docs/news/COMIFAC_partenaires_reunion_concertation_012009.pdf

http://www.dfp.org/docs/rapports_act/pleniereyao unde/atelier1_Falkenberg.pdf

<http://www.dfp.org/actualites/items/concertation-COMIFAC-institutionspartenaires.html>

<http://www.dfp.org/actualites/items/CEEACOMIFAC.html>

<http://www.dfp.org/proceedings/items/documents-financingcbf.html>

http://www.dfp.org/docs/rapports_act/ccr%20brazzaville2008/christ_initiativesfinancement.pdf

- Consultations on COMIFAC reform agenda with COMIFAC presidency, Sept.2009 in Bangui

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/FAAditeursCOMIFAC.html>

iii – COMIFAC monitoring and evaluation system

- Launch of the State of the Forests 2008 Report 9/2009
- Supported COMIFAC monitoring system: evaluation of the operationalised PC 2006-2008, planning for operationalised PC 2009-2011. Final results have been presented during a one-week regional seminar in February 2009 (Douala).

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/OFACPFBChtml>;

<http://www.cbfp.org/bassincongo.html>

http://www.cbfp.org/docs/rapports_act/ccr_douala_2009/ccrdouala_evaluationPC_Tadoum.pdf

iv – Subregional coordination and international positioning

- National Coordinators : Provided office material and communication tools for national coordination (Chad, Congo, Burundi) and set up and administering of COMIFAC communication platform for national coordinators
- Promoted Regional South-South Cooperation by co-organising pre-congress workshop on regional forest cooperation at the FAO World Forestry Congress (Buenos Aires 2010)
- Advised COMIFAC and delivered encouraging testimony at CBFP US Congress Hearing (Washington,9/2009)

www.comifac-communication.org

<http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/forest/wfc13/17oct.html>

<http://www.gtz.de/de/dokumente/gtz2009-en-message-workshop-regional-forest-cooperation.pdf>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/iccf-forum-actu.html>

Assessment by the Facilitator

Owing to the professional skills and the personal commitment of the current President (Minister Emmanuel Bizot, CAR) and the newly staffed Executive Secretariat (led by Executive Secretary Raymond Mbitikon and his deputy Martin Tadoum), COMIFAC member states and CBFP partners have, since 2008, improved their management of Regional Plan (Plan de Convergence) implementation, while monitoring the international forest policy agenda for further inputs. Although the 2008 evaluation of the Regional Plan continued to reveal lacking involvement of key forest sector actors in many member states, progress has been achieved in (i) implementing forest sector reforms, (ii) involving parliamentarians and (iii) increasing civil society participation. In contrast to these positive developments, there are reasons for concerns in a number of fields.

Persistent institutional weakness within COMIFAC and signs for lack of political ownership among Central African States, resulting in a failure to establish an autonomous, sustainable funding mechanism (AFM) for COMIFAC in order to ensure its professionalism, credibility and strength in

coordinating SFM in the region and in mobilizing external support. Despite repeated commitments from Heads of States, the budgetary relationship between COMIFAC and its 'umbrella' organization CEEAC/ECCAS continues to be unresolved. This could potentially undermine the character of COMIFAC as an independent, intergovernmental mechanism and CBFP's regionally steered institutional anchor organization.

1: STRENGTHENING OF COMIFAC INSTITUTIONS AND THE CBFP

1.2 STRENGTHENING OF THE CBFP

- i. **Promoting an open dialogue** among partners: i) identifying and clarifying common positions and differences of view, and ii) as far as possible, identifying common visions and approaches, with the help of ad hoc working groups;
- ii. **Strengthening coordination within the CBFP** through consultations, assessments and political dialogue within the partnership, making it possible a) to identify lead actors among the partners for priority activities, b) to identify and engage direct correspondents of the facilitation in the partner countries;
- iii. **Holding regular meetings of the CBFP and the regional consultative committee (CCR) and making** the most of those meetings by carefully applying moderation techniques suitable for large groups and different meeting types, which make it possible to mobilise and encourage the active participation of each member of the partnership;
- iv. Developing and implementing a **CBFP communication and promotion strategy** (interactive website, etc.), complementing and supporting the COMIFAC communication strategy;
- v. **Networking with other regional initiatives** (NEPAD, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, CEEAC, CEMAC, etc).

Actions and achievements

i – Open dialogue and identification of common visions

Promoted and facilitated dialogue and concertation among partners for reaching consensus and identifying priorities on various topics, e.g.

- Streamlined support to regional REDD-related projects and process
- Strengthened dialogue with private sector and initiated discussion on role of industrial logging for sustainable forest management
- Reached consensus on the necessity to promote credible forest certification standards in the COMIFAC region
- Strengthened relations between Chinese actors and CBFP, raised awareness among CBFP partners for necessity to mainstream activities

Related documents (click or copy for your browser)

<http://www.cbf-p.org/actualites/items/redd-washington.html>

<http://www.cbf-p.org/rapports/items/documentation-a-telie-rthe-matique-exploitation-industrielle.html>

<http://www.cbf-p.org/actualites/items/un-a-telie-r-de-reflexion-sur-la-certification-credible-dans-le-bassin-du-congo.html>

<http://www.cbf-p.org/rapports/items/a-telie-rFLEGT-mars-2010-hotelsawa.html>
<http://www.cbf-p.org/actualites/items/bilan->

with Chinese technical and political partners and to achieve formal relations between China and COMIFAC

[chine-facilitationallemande.html](http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/chine-facilitationallemande.html)

ii – Strengthening cooperation within CBFP

- Carried out inventory of partners' priority areas of action and suggested cluster building by working topic (CCR Bangui)
- Conducted joint evaluation of the French Facilitation period (with France) and of the German Facilitation period (with Canada)
- Awareness-raising among partners to identify new facilitation

<http://www.cbfp.org/docs/bangui032008/Analyse%20Domaines%20Intervention%20Partenaires.pdf>

<http://www.cbfp.org/docdefs.html>

iii – Organisation and capitalisation of CBFP meetings

- Organised four meetings of the CCR (CCR5 Bangui, March 2008, CCR 6, Brazzaville 2008, CCR 7 Douala, May 2009) and coorganised with Canada CCR8 Kinshasa (September 2010)
- Organised and co-organised two plenary meetings (5th Plenary Paris October 2007 with France, and 6th Plenary Yaoundé November 2009)
- Added value to CCR meetings by introducing thematic sessions and using conclusions of these sessions as advisory references for communicating positions of facilitation and CBFP
- Added value to CBFP meetings by strengthening direct exchange with COMIFAC ministers (as session chairmen and input providers)
- Introduced new concepts promoting direct exchange and discussions to the statutory meetings (info market, parallel seminars, field trips)
- Published meeting reports and conclusions on CBFP website

<http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/ccrbangui-documentation.html>:

http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/ccr6_brazzaville.html

http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/ccr7_douala_conclusions.html

http://www.cbfp.org/tl_files/archive/evenements/PLENIERPFBC261007.pdf

<http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/documentation-pl%C3%A9ni%C3%A8rePFBC-Yaounde2009.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/conclusions-atelierPFBC-placedexploitationindustrielle.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/documentation-pl%C3%A9ni%C3%A8rePFBC-Yaounde2009.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/documentation-pl%C3%A9ni%C3%A8rePFBC-Yaounde2009.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/rapports>

iv – Communication and promotion strategy

- Re-launched and modified website, continuous maintenance and improvement; 50.000 monthly

www.cbfp.org ,

- visits 4/2010 (+ 500% since 4/2008); 50 daily downloads.
- Launched CBFP information bulletin, five editions 2008-2010, over 450 recipients (+ 191% since 2008)
 - Published and distributed information flyer presenting CBFP in English, French and Chinese
 - Promoted and presented CBFP during international conferences (African Forest Governance Durban, SBSTTA CBD Rome, CSD 16 New York, AfDB Financing Mechanisms/Tunis, GEF/Libreville, CBFF-Launch London, UNFF New York & CLI Geneva, CBD COP9 Bonn, IUCN Barcelona, FSC Cape Town, US-Congress Hearing Washington, World forestry Congress Buenos Aires, IUCN Timber Trade conference Beijing, European TTAP conference TFT/Geneva, UNFCCC SBI/Bonn & COP 15/Copenhagen, Launch UNCCC REDD-fast start Process/Paris, Global Forest Leaders Forum on Forests and Climate Change etc.)
 - Awareness-raising and support to adherence process for new members (Spain, Norway, AfDB, UNEP, CMS, UNDP, TRAFFIC, FSC, Precious Woods, Alpi Group), approached more potential members (China)
 - Intensified regional and international press relations (Courrier de la Planète, Jeune Afrique, Deutsche Welle, SPIEGEL, TV Cameroon etc.) and Parliamentarians (Germany, DRC, Cameroon, REPAR)

<http://www.cbfp.org/usage2.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/archivebulletin.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/docdefs.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/rapport-washingtonmakon.html>;

http://www.cbfp.org/evenements_fr/events/forum-forest-washington.html

<http://www.cbfp.org/membres.html>

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,554982,00.html>;<http://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/natur/0,1518,554830,00.html>;
<http://www.courriedelaplanete.org/88/artide1.php>

v – Networking with other regional initiatives

- Partnered COMIFAC/CEEAC cooperation and promoted institutional harmonization in Central Africa
- Co-organized with CBD Secretariat an informal regional initiatives meeting with experts from ASEAN, COMIFAC, OTCA in Montréal 7/2009
- Facilitation of sud-sud cooperation on Biodiversity

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/Sommet-CEEAC-14-F.html>

www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ssc/ssc-01/official/ssc-01-01-add1-rev1-en.pdf
www.cbd.int/doc/press/2009/pr-2009-07-16-forest-en.pdf

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/gtbac-douala-10-F.html>

Assessment by the Facilitator

The intense debates and positive exchange of practical experience during CBFP meetings and interaction at various levels and occasions testify to the vitality of the Partnership. It has developed into a **role model of multi-stakeholder initiatives** which Heads of States had in mind at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 in New York. The Millennium Declaration emphasizes the importance of partnerships and alliances, noting that the United Nations and member governments should "(...) develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication."

The concept of partnerships among governments, the business community and civil society received a large boost by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. At and after WSSD more than 300 Partnerships were launched and registered with the UN Secretariat in New York (http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/partnerships/csd11_partnerships_decision.htm). Partnerships can complement those multilateral agreements and international regimes where multi-stakeholder coalitions exist that are willing to advance towards sustainable regional or global solutions that go beyond the minimum common denominator governments are willing to agree upon. Because of their voluntary character, multi-stakeholder initiatives of players committed to finding sustainable solutions for specific social and environmental problems may pave the way out of difficult situations.

Multi-stakeholder initiatives follow the concept of "Public-Policy Networks." They are directed towards achieving a common understanding of complex policy issues among diverse stakeholders, reflecting the different interests of the participants, and towards creating ownership of common efforts in support of public interest. Through continuous interaction these networks permit mutual learning at each step of the process towards implementation, thus broadening the basis of consensual knowledge and opening ways towards far-reaching processes of change. From a constitutional point of view, multi-stakeholder initiatives and public policy networks can be supportive of democratic systems, as long as they respect the rules of decision-making processes by representative bodies. That is what makes them also an important instrument for global governance in the future, complementary to intergovernmental activities. Hence, CBFP and other partnership initiatives agreed upon in Johannesburg as "Type II outcomes", initially considered by many as an attempt to undermine multilateral agreements ("Type I outcomes"), can serve as a positive step into a more sustainable future.

2 : IMPROVE FOREST GOVERNANCE AND FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS

Three important processes regarding improved forest governance are currently under way in the subregion, namely i) formulation and implementation of National Forest Programmes (NFP); ii) implementation of the AFLEG indicative list of actions and voluntary partnership agreements (VPA) with the European Union and iii) certification of forest concessions to promote sustainable management of production forests.

- i. **Supporting national and regional initiatives** relating to these major areas of interest;
- ii. Intensifying **information sharing** in the **subregion to strengthen and harmonise approaches**;
- iii. **Mobilising civil society and the private sector** to participate in CBFP activities and bringing major new actors (China) to interact with the partnership;
- iv. **Approaching other initiatives** (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, EITI) **and economic sectors**, motivating them to take part in CBFP meetings and the subregional forest dialogue.

Actions and achievements

Related documents (click or copy for your browser)

i- Implementation of NFP:

- Facilitated and supported the implementation of national forest sector programmes/development strategies in Cameroon (ProPSFE) and DRC (PFB)

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/partenaariat-ukallemagne-rdc.html> <http://minfof-cm.org/art126-fr.php>,
<http://www.cbfp.org/Mapping.html>

ii – FLEG(T) and other trade related-issues:

- COMIFAC FLEGT Task Force: evaluated coordination structure and encouraged partners to continue working on regional level
- COMIFAC FLEGT Task Force: supported the yearly meeting steered by the French cooperation, leading to the initiative « State of Forest Governance in the Congo Basin » with Wageningen
- Contributions to the Chatham House process on Forest Governance (Workshop London, 12/2007; Workshop Kinshasa, 6/2008)

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/evaluation-aflegt.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/evaluation-aflegt.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/atelierFLEGT-mars2010-hotelsawa.html>

http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/research/eedp/current_projects/drc_forests/

http://www.cbfp.org/archivebulletin/items/bull_fr2.html

- Cameroon: Advised and supported VPA process in Cameroon, leading to the signing of the EU-CAM agreement in May 2010
- RDC : Facilitated dialogue and exchange between actors in DRC to promote application of the new "Forest Law Code"
- Organised (with IUCN and WWF) on behalf of COMIFAC regional FLEGT workshop with participation of all partners involved in inter-regional timber trade and affected by VPA agreements (EC, China, US administration, logging companies, trading companies) (March 2010)

http://www.cbf.org/docs/rapports_act/ccr_douala_2009/ccrdouala_vandenhaute.pdf

http://www.cbf.org/news_en/items/APV-FLEGT-Cameroun-E.html;

<http://www.cbf.org/actualites/items/APV-FLEGT-Cameroun-F.html>

<http://www.cbf.org/actualites/items/rdc-sessionrecours-conversionitres.html>

<http://www.cbf.org/actualites/items/atelier-conversionitres-kinshasa.html>

<http://www.cbf.org/rapports/items/documentation-atelierpostconversion-rdc.html>

<http://www.cbf.org/rapports/items/atelierFLEGT-mars2010-hotelsawa.html>

<http://www.cbf.org/actualites/items/bilan-chine-facilitationallemande.html>

iii - Promoting forest certification in the Congo Basin

- Participation at FSC World Conference (Cape Town, 11/2008) and Launch of a Dialogue Forum on Certification in the COMIFAC region (2/2009 with WWF in Douala)
- Promoted and supported ATIBT/IFIA and FSC consultation process for the development of a new regional reference base for forest certification
- Supported FSC regional PPP project
- Encouraged discussion on treatment of HCV forests within certified forest concessions and moderated exchange with critical partners such as Greenpeace
- Supported implementation of certification initiatives (FSC) in the Congo Basin, and encouraged dialogue/development with European initiatives (France, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany)

<http://www.cbf.org/actualites/items/un-atelier-de-reflexion-sur-la-certification-credible-dans-le-bassin-du-congo.html>

<http://www.cbf.org/actualites/items/Referentiel-unique-certification-F.html>;

<http://www.cbf.org/actualites/items/atibt-plein-succes-pour-latelier-fhvc-4026-et-27-fevrier-douala41.html>

See upcoming COMIFAC workshop on sustainability standards (September 2010, Kinshasa)

See upcoming COMIFAC workshop on sustainability standards (September 2010, Kinshasa)

See upcoming COMIFAC workshop on sustainability standards (September 2010, Kinshasa)

iv – Mobilising and implicating civil society actors in CBFP

- Consultations of the Facilitator with Baka-

<http://www.cbf.org/actualites/items/relation->

communities in Lomié/Cameroon Mai 2009

- Facilitated participation of CEFDHAC representatives in international meetings and invited large number of civil society representatives to CBFP statutory meetings and workshops

[exploitants for%C3%AAtscommunaux Lomie.html](#)

v – Mobilising private sector to participate in CBFP activities

- Intensified dialogue with private sector (logging companies) resulted in adherence of two individual companies (ALPICAM and Precious Woods)
- Facilitators extensively consulted forest companies in South-West province of Cameroon in May 2009
- Supported and participated in RACEWOOD timber exhibition fair, Douala March 2010
- Promoted regular exchange with private sector during CBFP statutory meetings (agenda-setting, day-trips)

<http://www.cbfp.org/secteurprive.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/conclusions-atelierPFBC-placedexploitationindustrielle.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/IFIA-Racewood-douala2010-F.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/conclusions-atelierPFBC-placedexploitationindustrielle.html>

iv – Encouraging new actors (China) to interact with CBFP

- Identification of relevant Chinese actors and their interests: (i) participation in EU China FLEG Beijing 2007, (ii) talks with Chinese ambassadors in Gabon, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of the Congo in June 2008, (iii) expert study Beijing in January 2009, (iv) follow-up discussions of the facilitators in Beijing with the Chinese State Forestry Administration (SFA), Beijing Forestry Society, EC, DFID, EFI, WWF, IUCN, China Woods International, April 2009
- Implicated (with IFIA) Chinese logging/trading companies in overall dialogue with private sector for sustainable concession management: Co-initiated dialogue (with IFIA): One-Day Seminar in Libreville (05/2008), with the participation of Chinese, European and national logging companies, Chinese, Congolese, Gabonese and Cameroon's state forest services, IFIA affiliated business unions,

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/dialogue-chine.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/bilan-chine-facilitationallemande.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/acturapportlibreville.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/bilan-chine-facilitationallemande.html>

- German and Chinese embassies to Gabon, and NGO's
- Offered "Road Map" for dialogue with China to CBFP members in order to mainstream and structure efforts undertaken by a number of partners in fostering Chinese-African relations in the forest sector
- Supported COMIFAC in the process of establishing structured and formalized relations with Chinese State
- Promoted CBFP and concept of regional dialogue in the Central African forest sector in China by (i) advising COMIFAC on role of FOCAC, (ii) recruiting Chinese senior official as liaison officer, (iii) participating in IUCN/Forest Trends Conference on Sustainable Timber Trade (April 2009) and Rainforest Alliance Timber Policies and Markets conference (September 2009) and (iv) identifying and realizing meeting windows with Chinese officials in China, Cameroon and Germany (all 2010)
- Contributed to the exploration of ways to harmonize policy and practice in forestry and timber trade in Asia: Participation at the "International conference on trends in legal and certified forests and markets", Chinese State Forestry Administration (IFCC-SFA) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Shanghai 9/2009

http://www.cbfp.org/docs/rapports_act/ccr_douala_2009/CBFP-ChinaRoadMap_25may2009.pdf

http://www.cbfp.org/docs/rapports_act/pleniereyaounde/atelier2_FacilitationDialogueChine.pdf

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/dialogue-chine.html>

http://www.cbfp.org/docs/rapports_act/pleniereyaounde/atelier2_FacilitationDialogueChine.pdf

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/bilan-chine-facilitationallemande.html>

http://www.cfn.cn/cm2/cm2_en.asp

iv – Approaching other initiatives

(Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, EITI) **and economic sectors**, motivating them to take part in CBFP meetings and the subregional forest dialogue – **no reportable progress to date**

<http://eiti.org/>

Facilitator's assessment

Working on governance and framework conditions clearly represented one of the priority areas for the CBFP facilitation, as one of the major instruments of an actor being placed in the centre of a policy network is to use its influential power to reach out to all stakeholders determining the development of framework conditions in the forest sector.

- With a population growth of around 3% and a timber sector that contributes up to 13% of national GDP, the real challenge for Central African states lies in reconciling the integrity of ecosystems with human use and development. CBFP has produced a common vision

on the role of different forms of sustainable forest management as defined by COMIFAC, and reached out to private sector companies responsible for implementing management forms focusing on the industrial use of forest (timber) resources. Companies serving the environmentally-sensitive European and American consumer market increasingly participated – either as corporate members or through trade unions – in CBFP platforms. A paradigm shift towards SFM within the private sector resulted in FSC-certification of nearly 5 million ha in less than 4 years. Owing to the facilitation's engagement to drive forward CBFP's efforts to support the development of credible forest certification instruments in the Congo Basin and FSC's adherence to CBFP, timber logging and trading companies have become pivot actors for sustainable development in the forest sector, and for linking Central African countries to international markets. Securing these markets by communicating the efforts undertaken (and results achieved) to consumers, and by formally considering forest certification instruments in European and US due diligence legislation is indispensable if forestry as a sustainable form of land-use should continue to be a viable, profitable option in the Congo Basin.

- The process set off by the Libreville Forum for Dialogue with Asian Operators in the Timber sector (2008), initiated by the Interafrican Forest Industries Association/IFIA, WWF and the German CBFP Facilitation, developed into a broader dialogue with Chinese logging companies, Chinese State Forest Administration and other related Ministries. The forum, intended to create transparency in the Central African logging sector and to raise awareness among the growing number of Asian operators for legal reforms and existing certification standards, closed with a communiqué in which participants expressed the wish to continue the dialogue. After having conducted extensive research on Chinese stakeholders' perception in China, and consulted other CBFP members with Chinese-African programs, the German facilitation at the last Regional Consultative Committee (May 2009) proposed a framework to foster dialogue between China and Central Africa that should combine political agreements and technical cooperation. The Facilitation has counseled COMIFAC on how to include the forest chapter into the Forum on Chinese-African Cooperation (FOCAC). In March/April 2010, two COMIFAC workshops on FLEGT policies and technical implications gave room to further discussions between Chinese, African and EC government officials on sustainable timber trade. Since CBFP feature as a non-legally binding, voluntary partnership seems attractive to China, an informal agreement strengthen dialogue in the forest sector has been established between COMIFAC and China's State Forest

Administration during these workshops. CBFP members intend to continue supporting these Sino-African initiatives.

3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVERGENCE PLAN AND MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

3.1. THE REDD PROCESS AND OTHER FOREST-RELATED PROCESSES

As agreed at COP13/UNFCCC in Bali in December 2008, emissions from deforestation and forest degradation will be considered in a future international climate regime. It appears crucial for Congo Basin states to have degradation as well reflected as deforestation during further negotiations. This issue can play a strong role in national forest policies in the Congo Basin during the coming years.

- i. Supporting the Central African countries in **preparing and consolidating a joint, well-argued position** on these issues and promoting its consideration by the appropriate international instances;
- ii. **Building capacity in the Central African pilot countries** to prepare for and implement the REDD mechanism and the NLBI;
- iii. **Supporting partners in formulating and implementing REDD pilot projects** in the COMIFAC region and feeding the lessons learned into the international debate;
- iv. Networking with international partners to **ensure that COMIFAC countries receive adequate support** in the subjects of REDD, NLBI, NFP.

Actions and achievements

i – Support preparing joint position of COMIFAC countries

- Support to GT Climate: Facilitated REDD scientific meeting in Paris March 2008 with road map development
- Support to GT Climate: Financed Post-Poznan restitution workshop in Kinshasa (1/2009)
- Coached GTC at UNFCCC negotiations in Bali (12/2007), Bonn (4/2009, 4/2010), Bangkok (10/2009), Copenhagen (12/2009), Paris (Paris-Oslo-process 3/2010) and China (September 2010)
- Co-organized CIFOR regional forest day preparing for COP15 (Copenhagen), Yaoundé 11/2009

Related documents (click or copy for your browser)

<http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/atelierredd-paris.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/conclusions-de-la-telier-regional-comifac-sur-redd.html>

http://www.cbfp.org/docs/rapports_act/ccr_douala_2009/ccrdouala_GTCCC_Besacier.pdf

http://www.cbfp.org/evenements_fr/events/reddcameroun-sbstasidevent-fr/ical/1/titre/ical.html

http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/COMIFAC_side_event_Copenhague-F.html

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/QFOR-Forest-Day3-F.html> <http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/Qfor-forest-da%C3%BD-documentation-F.html>

http://www.cbfp.org/docs/rapports_act/CIFOR-Forest%20Day2/Key%20Note%20Address_COMIFAC.pdf

ii – Building capacity to prepare for

implementation of REDD mechanisms

- Promotion of case studies on REDD implementation between Bolivia and the Cameroon
- Co-organized with WWF a coordination meeting on REDD capacity development in Washington (10/2008)
- Facilitated technical workshop on forest carbon stocks 2/2010 Brazzaville

http://www.cbfp.org/evenements_fr/events/reddcameroon-sbstasidevent-fr/ical/1/title/ical.html

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/redd-washington.html>

http://www.cbfp.org/proceedings/items/backgrounddocuments_reddwashington.html

http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/documents_reddialogue.html

http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/Suivi_des_stocks_carbone-COMIFAC-Documentation-F.html

iii – Support REDD pilot projects

- Facilitated launch and implementation of REDD pilot project Cameroon

http://www.cbfp.org/docs/rapports_act/Atelier%20COMIFAC%20Brazzaville%202010/Jour%20Haeulser_Brazza-Workshop.pdf

http://www.cbfp.org/docs/rapports_act/CIFOR-Forest%20Day2/Session%201_Daraspe.pdf

iii – Ensure COMIFAC countries receive adequate support

- Supported COMIFAC's function as regional institution for coordination during WWF-organised workshop on REDD in Washington
- Continue to lobby for COMIFAC's central role in coordinating REDD activities: ICCF-Summit Washington and UNFCCC COP 15 Copenhagen 12/2009

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/redd-washington.html>

http://www.cbfp.org/proceedings/items/backgrounddocuments_reddwashington.html

http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/documents_reddialogue.html

ICCF:

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/iccf-forum-actu.html>

http://www.cbfp.org/evenements_fr/events/forumiccf-washington.html

COP15:

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/Sommet-Paris-CEEAC-F.html>

http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/COMIFAC_side_event_Copenhagen-F.html

3.2. THE ABS PROCESS AND SUPPORT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

COMIFAC and the countries of the subregion should be encouraged to put in place specific ABS legislation reflecting their national interests, respect for traditional uses of genetic resources and traditional knowledge and practices, without forgetting the aspects of technology transfer, intellectual property rights, and the problems of access to the results and benefits of biotechnologies.

- i. assist the countries of Central Africa in **drawing up a joint well-founded position on ABS** and in ensuring that due consideration is given to it in the international regime under preparation;
- ii. **facilitate active participation** by the subregion in important relevant **negotiations**;
- iii. **strengthen support to protected areas** and trans-boundary national park conservation networks through its established channels of bilateral and sub-regional cooperation

Actions and achievements

Related documents (click or copy for your browser)

i – Support development of joint position on ABS

- COMIFAC GT BAC (Biodiversity): Continuous support for ABS/APA process through ABS initiative

http://www.cbf.org/docs/rapports_act/ccr%20brazzaville2008/oko_gtbiobiodiversite.pdf
http://www.cbf.org/docs/rapports_act/ccr_douala_2009/ccrdouala_OKO.pdf
<http://www.cbf.org/actualites/items/GTBAC-actualite%20A9-F.html>
<http://www.cbf.org/actualites/items/gtbac-douala-10-F.html>

ii – Facilitated COMIFAC participation during CBD negotiations

- Facilitated the active participation of subregional representatives during major international negotiations on CBD (SBSTA Rome / February 2008 and COP 9 / May 2008)
- Organised COMIFAC/CBFP side-event during COP9 with signing of MoU between COMIFAC and CBD

http://www.cbf.org/evenements_fr/events/comifac-sidebonn.html
<http://www.cbf.org/docs/bangui032008/Compte%20rendu%20Groupe%20BAC.pdf>
<http://www.cbf.org/rapports/items/cop9-presentations.html>

iii – Strengthen support to protected areas/ trans-boundary national parks

- Financed implementation of the road map for the establishment of Ubadjida Scena Ura parc (Chad Cameroon) and facilitated the implementation of management and business plan
- Financed and started implementation of pilot

<http://www.cbf.org/docs/news/nov-dec2009/comifac-news-6-pour-web.pdf>

http://www.cbf.org/docs/rapports_act/CIFOR-

project for enhanced participation of indigenous populations in managing protected area sites in East Cameroon (collaboration with CED/Greenpeace)

- Prepared and implemented workshop to integrate indigenous population in the CBD process with focus on ABS/trad. Knowledge
- Lobbied for additional support to the TNS

[Forest%20Day2/Session%202_SamNnah.pdf](#)

<http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/documentation-pl%C3%A9ni%C3%A8re-PFBC-Yaounde2009.html>,
workshop 4

Facilitator's Assessment:

The region's visibility and impact in terms of climate change and biodiversity negotiations has improved remarkably and with the assistance of a number of CBFP partners, COMIFAC countries have improved their ability to define and defend their positions ever more effectively in international negotiations on REDD, ABS. Coordination between development partners has been enhanced, and further science-based information on the state of the Congo Basin Forests has been provided. However, there is an ongoing need for capacity development, mobilization of expertise, coordination of relevant actors at country level and support for negotiation teams operating under difficult conditions. .

Many CBFP partners are engaged in helping COMIFAC countries prepare for negotiations and the implementation of REDD mechanisms. However, lessons from the Paris declaration and Accra agenda seem to have been neglected: countries are too often driven by institutional interests or commercial concerns. Furthermore, transparency criteria based on the road map established by the COMIFAC Climate Working Group are not being adhered to. In short, there is no strong hand at the regional helm. These problems need to be addressed in the future if COMIFAC want to become a powerful global player.

4 : INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT FUNDING OF MEASURES DETERMINED IN THE CONVERGENCE PLAN

Relevant actions will take place in the framework of the COMIFAC working group on financial mechanisms and will focus on making optimum use at subregional level of international, regional and national initiatives related to forest/environment sector funding, including the Kyoto Protocol, REDD process, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and possible options for a voluntary global financial mechanism for Sustainable Forest Management under discussion within the UNFF framework. Furthermore, German facilitation intends to engage in efforts to help improve access to new and existing financing mechanisms and to help provide better incentives for private sector investments.

Actions and achievements

- Congo Basin Forest Fund: Participated in the dialogue preceding the setting up of the UK Congo Basin Fund (AfDB Conference Tunis), the institutional set-up and linkage to CBFP and COMIFAC and the launch
- Congo Basin Forest Fund: Represented CBFP in the Governing Council and advised Co-Chairs on regional issues
- Co-convoked Chatham House meeting in London and DRC on alternative financing mechanisms for SFM (2008)
- Participated in discussions concerning the implementation of the Tropical Forest Account (TFA) by GEF/FEM, participated in subregional GEF/FEM meeting in Libreville, GEF/TFA side event during CBD-COP9, Worldbank FCPF-meetings in Washington
- Continued dialogue with FEM/GEF, DFID, CEEAC, BM, AfDB, CBFF on integration of financing activities in the regional context, support implementation of managing instruments
- Continued awareness-raising activities and publication of official statements concerning the necessity to establish an autonomous financing mechanism for COMIFAC

Related documents (click or copy for your browser)

<http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/declaration-de-tunis-bad-fevrier-2008.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/actualites-congobasinforestfund.html>

<http://www.cbfp.org/actualites/items/cbff-governingcouncil24november2009-F.html>;

<http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/896/>

http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/research/eedp/current_projects/drc_forests/

http://www.cbfp.org/facilitators_address.html;

http://www.cbfp.org/mot_facil_all2.html

Facilitator's Assessment:

Substantial additional external funding has been made available, notably through regional programmes (AfDB, WB, GEF), bilaterals (such as US/CAN/GER/F) and the Congo Basin Forest Fund/CBFF (UK, NOR) in which COMIFAC and CBFP are playing an active role. A further challenge is now to make sure that Central African decision-makers maintain a balance between the rapidly increasing expectations of financing mechanisms (REDD, ABS) and a more realistic assessment of the state of negotiations. Many years of SFM and biodiversity conservation experience provide ample evidence that money alone cannot solve the problems of weak structures, land use conflicts, conflicting commercial interests and demographic, economic and social change. Millions have been invested without substantially reducing the rates of deforestation and forest degradation. In order to make better use of the billions which are being expected, fundamental governance challenges must be addressed