



International Conference on Security, Poaching, Transhumance Management and the
Movement of Armed Groups between the Sahel and Equatorial Africa

Experts' Meeting to follow up on the N'Djamena Conference

16-17 December 2019

Douala, Republic of Cameroon

**FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ of the
Experts' Meeting to Follow up on the N'Djamena Conference**

on

**The Sahel-Congo Basin Roadmap on the Operational Implementation of the
N'Djamena Declaration**

Douala, Cameroon, 16 - 17 May 2019

1. The Kingdom of Belgium Facilitation of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), in close collaboration with the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, hosted from 16 to 17 December 2019 in Douala, Cameroon, the Experts' Meeting for the follow up of the International conference on Security, Poaching, Transhumance Management and the Movements of Armed Groups between the Sahel and Equatorial Africa.
2. The purpose of the meeting was to make progress in the concrete implementation of the recommendations of the N'Djamena International Conference of Ministers which should help to develop, for each of the 3 intervention groups a specific logical framework from which a complete action document (technical and financial document) can then be drafted at the end of the experts' meeting. Each of these 3 logical frameworks (one per block) will be built based more specifically on the 8 areas of intervention identified at the N'Djamena conference in January 2019. It was also intended to propose a strategy aimed at establishing a regional monitoring and political steering mechanism for actions dealing with security/protected areas/pastoralism interactions. They will propose an action plan to ensure that at least three meetings between actors (local, national and international) from the security, pastoralism and protected areas sectors are held in 2020 and 2021.
3. It was organized with the financial and technical support of the Kingdom of Belgium Facilitation Consortium of the CBFP, namely: the German Ministry of Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the European Union (DEVCO), and Belgium.
4. Placed under the supervision/Chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret Ndong, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon, current COMIFAC Chairperson, this meeting brought together representatives of the following concerned countries: Cameroon, Niger, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Southern Sudan and Chad. Also attending were the following regional organizations: ECCAS, COMIFAC, OCFSA, IGAD, CBHVIRA,

GABAC and technical and financial partners dedicated to wildlife conservation and anti-poaching issues, as well as Civil Society Organizations.

5. The deliberations of the meeting of experts were structured around the following points:

- ➔ The opening ceremony
- ➔ The technical session of Experts
- ➔ Resolutions and recommendations
- ➔ The conclusion

1 - THE OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was punctuated by four speeches by the following personalities:

- The welcome address of Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), **H.E.François-Xavier de Donnea**, Minister of State of the Kingdom of Belgium
- A word from the Minister of Water and Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries of the Central African Republic, **His Excellency Amit IDRIS**
- Speech by ECCAS Deputy Secretary General, **Her Excellency Mrs MFOULA Marie Thérèse Chantal**
- Opening speech of **His Excellency, Mr Jules Doret Ndongo**, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon, COMIFAC Serving Chairperson.

This was followed by the presentation and adoption of the agenda of the meeting by all the participants after amendments.

This session continued with the setting up of the workshop bureau, which is composed as follows:

- Chairperson: Mr **NYONGWEN Joseph**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon;
- 1st Vice-chair: Mr **ABDRAMANE CHAIBO HAMID**, Director of Conservation, Wildlife and Protected Areas of Chad;

- 2nd Vice-chair: **Mr MAMAN Ibrahim**, Technical Advisor to the Minister of Environment of Niger;
- Rapporteurs:
 - ✓ **Major General AGURU MAMBA Maurice**, Commander of the Corps in charge of the Security of National Parks and Related Natural Reserves of the DRC;
 - ✓ **Mr ZACKARIA TABAN**, Park Warden, Lantoto National Park, South Sudan
 - ✓ **Mr MUBANGO Emmanuel**, Director of Legal Affairs and Communication.

The Technical Secretariat was held by the CBFP Facilitation, ECCAS, COMIFAC, OCFSA, IGAD, GABAC and IUCN.

This session ended with a family photograph.

2- THE TECHNICAL SESSION OF EXPERTS

This session was divided into four parts

2.1 Introductory Presentations

Three keynote presentations from regional institutions and countries on the current situation and the way forward were delivered by the following partners: UNESCO, WCS and IGAD

It was followed by the reading of the Ndjamenan declaration by Maxime NZITA, co-facilitator of the CBFP.

2.2 Introductory Country Presentations.

The following session was punctuated by presentations by the countries concerned and regional institutions on the introductory presentations made by the countries and regional institutions concerned on the current situation and the way forward: Cameroon, Niger, CAR, DRC, Sudan, Chad, ECCAS and IGAD.

2.3. Presentations by Block Leaders and OFAC

Following country interventions, the same exercise was conducted by the Leaders of the Geographical Blocks and OFAC. These presentations focused on the implementation of the declaration in each block concerned.

- ✓ **Florence PALLA** of OFAC presented the mapping of all the three blocks. She also presented the programmatic data management - Monitoring: Nexus transhumance - security - conservation - development: "Encounter between the Sahel and the North of Equatorial Africa" Consolidation of the design for the Geographical Blocks.
- ✓ **Bertille MAYEN**, of GIZ for the West Block
- ✓ **Florent ZOWOYA** of WCS for the Centre Block
- ✓ **Michel BAUDOUIN** of APN for the East Block

Following these presentations, a few questions of clarification and constructive comments ensued

2.4. Breakout Sessions

Three working groups following the geographical blocks were set up to make amendments to the logical framework. The logical frameworks for each block were reviewed at the national and sub-regional levels.

3. RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. Resolutions

The Experts' meeting to follow up the N'Djamena conference:

- Adopts the programmatic logical framework matrix of the West, Central and East geographic blocks;
- Calls for a summit of the Heads of State of the countries concerned in order to take appropriate and sustainable measures to control transhumance, in particular through the need to regulate herd sizes (flocks)

They acknowledge:

- The relevance of the approach of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme and the Biosphere Reserve model for resolving conflicts over the use of natural resources, which can be applied to issues related to transhumance
- That in many cross-border areas far from capital cities and particularly in arid and semi-arid zones, failure to provide basic social services, including health, water and education, and the lack of economic opportunities for young people combine to provide fertile ground for violent resource conflicts and/or extremist groups. The situation is exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and variability that cause shocks and tensions that increase the risk of intercommunal violence by contributing to competition over scarce natural resources. Serious organized crime networks, including those organizing human trafficking and smuggling, livestock theft and banditry, often operating across national borders, aggravate instability and attack local communities in the absence of strong State authority.

And are convinced that

Pastoralism is essential to safeguard the income and well-being of people living in arid and semi-arid zones in the face of climate change, climate variability and other pressures.

3.2. Recommendations

The Experts' meeting to follow up the N'Djamena conference recommends:

To Regional Institutions

1. Drawing on the experience of IGAD and its member States, it is proposed that ECCAS member States deliberately focus increased public sector investment on the foundations of development, including basic social services (health, water and education) and essential infrastructure (roads, water transport, ICT and railways) while promoting investments aimed at exploiting locally available resources, including livestock, community wildlife conservation and

- eco-cultural tourism, artisanal minerals and non-timber forest products (gums, resins and spices) and honey, in order to create wealth and jobs for young people.
2. ECCAS must mobilize and mobilize its Member States to establish mechanisms for the development and mobilization of resources for joint programmes which can then be implemented simultaneously in the same under-invested cross-border areas to ensure that communities on all borders benefit and are integrated into the national framework.
 3. Strengthen regional policy frameworks, structures and protocols for cross-border cooperation between regional institutions, national and local governments, the private sector, civil society and international technical and financial partners in development;
 4. Promote and strengthen common objectives in addressing the vulnerability of transboundary communities caused by climate change, resource scarcity and economic decline, ECCAS institutions, including COMIFAC, CBPF and others, should produce credible and verifiable evidence to inform the development of regional projects, programmes, strategies and policies and legal frameworks that can apply to Member States for domestication and operationalization.
 5. Recognize and enable free and safe cross-border transhumance as a coping and survival mechanism for sustainable livelihoods. Sub-regional intergovernmental institutions should work with and assist respective governments and communities to identify and map existing and/or new routes and resources and designate them as "transhumance corridors" for transhumant livestock and pastoralists.
 6. Ensure effective cooperation and coordination, monitoring and evaluation of cross-border initiatives, including the participation of relevant national and regional actors in these processes.
 7. COMIFAC should expedite the Memoranda of Understanding for the use of remote sensing tools for monitoring PAs (Geospatial tools)
 8. COMIFAC should facilitate the implementation of the specific LAB and Ecodevelopment protocols relating to the Ndjamena BSB and AT-LAB Agreements in collaboration with the Ministries in charge of Wildlife and their strategic partners.
 9. Develop and conduct a training module on respect for human rights in the LAB

10. Based on FOCA/COMIFAC's expertise, strengthen the observation and monitoring mechanism of the Transhumance issue, including climate variability, by identifying new key data layers and monitoring indicators to be formulated.
11. Develop synergies with data producers and research centres at regional and continental level such as IGAD, CILS and/or AGRYMET;
12. Strengthen the process of data collection and information production in the COMIFAC area and in neighbouring countries concerned by the problem of transhumance;
13. Requests that COMIFAC should conclude a cooperation agreement with IGAD on transhumance.

To States:

1. Through their various Ministries and administrations concerned, they should ensure integration and effective collaboration between security services (military, police, justice and other agents) for information exchange with formal intelligence networks;
2. Facilitate the signing of bilateral and trilateral agreements currently being negotiated and to secure sovereignty resources to ensure the implementation of these agreements;
3. Carry out an analysis of local cross-border collaboration agreements on transhumance in order to capitalize on the good practices to be promoted;
4. Identify existing platforms for collaboration on cross-border anti-poaching measures with a view to creating synergies and promoting data sharing for cross-border intelligence and alerts;
5. Strongly involve local civil society actors and riparian communities (PACs) in the development and implementation of sustainable and integrated transhumance management strategies;
6. Integrate traditional knowledge and local governance structures with the support of local civil society in order to improve ownership of conservation issues and security of protected areas;
7. Set up easy access to funding for local civil society organizations involved in issues related to transhumance and security in order to improve the socio-economic conditions of local communities and the greening of their economies;

To the CBFP Facilitation:

1. Set up a Taskforce for the follow-up of the Ndjamena Declaration and the mechanisms for its implementation discussed in Douala, in particular the political and institutional backing;
2. Partners, including government, NGOs, donor organizations and the private sector, should harmonize approaches and methodologies for conservation capacity development by identifying, standardizing and adopting agreed best practices that can be systematically applied to capacity development initiatives and compared across projects and organizations;
3. In addition to traditional conservation tools and methodologies, the conservation capacity development programme should integrate additional relevant themes and approaches into its standard operating procedure, including human rights, gender analysis and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC);

To Technical and Financial Partners:

- 1- Encourage UNESCO to pursue the preparation of its "Transhumance, Development and Peace" project in consultation with the various stakeholders and calls on technical and financial partners to support this initiative;
- 2- To address the issues related to transhumance and any intervention in this field by promoting intercultural dialogue and the Culture of Peace as advocated by UNESCO;
- 3- Provide technical, material and financial resources that are commensurate with the geo-strategic stakes of the block concerned and that support the national policies of the countries concerned;
- 4- The countries urge the technical and financial partners to conduct a joint reflection on the appropriate financing mechanisms to meet the operational programmatic challenges;
- 5- Provide support to strengthen the operational capacities of government actors in wildlife law enforcement on innovative techniques and tools to fight wildlife crime and other illicit activities;
- 6- To provide support to strengthen inter-state collaboration in the exchange of information on cross-border wildlife crime and other illegal activities, especially through Trade in Wildlife Information exchange, capacity building for its implementation and dissemination;
- 7- Provide support for the assessment of opportunities for the restoration of degraded landscapes in transhumance corridors and protected areas, notably by using the Landscape Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (MEOR/ROAM) developed by IUCN and WRI;
- 8- Provide support for the popularization of the IIED/IUCN "People not Poaching" platform to better share experiences and solutions for the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in the fight against wildlife crime

Closing

The N'Djamena follow-up experts meeting: thanks the authorities of the Republic of Cameroon for their hospitality and for having made it possible to hold its meeting in Douala and expresses its gratitude to the financial partners of the Facilitation Consortium of the Kingdom of Belgium of the CBFP, namely France, Germany and the Kingdom of Belgium for their multifaceted support and urges them to continue to support the implementation of the Douala recommendations.

Done in Douala, on 17 December 2019

The participants