Congo Basin Institute

A new model for research and education

Kevin Njabo, PhD and Virginia Zaunbrecher, JD
What is CBI?
Congo Basin Institute – Mission and Plan

• To find integrative breakthrough solutions that conserve the environment and meet the vital needs of the developing world.

• Build a center of higher learning and center of scientific excellence in Central Africa — generating research that decision makers can use to address sub-Saharan Africa’s interlocking environmental and development challenges.
CBI - What it is?

- A consortium of highly experienced and recognized partners
- A permanent, multidisciplinary enterprise focused on innovative evidence-based solutions
- Leverages the resources of universities, industry and development organizations
- A Research and Education Park
How Does CBI Work?
CBI’s Power Comes from It’s Members

Founding Members:

- UCLA
  - July 2015
- IITA
  - Research to Nourish Africa
  - July 2015

Current Participants:

- The University of New Orleans
  - June 2016
- Drexel University
  - Oct 2016
- IBASE
  - Oct 2016

- In the last 6 months, have worked on bringing Participants on board
- More than a dozen other organizations in the pipeline
- All kinds of organizations are invited to join (universities, NGOs, businesses, research institutes, government entities)
- All participants must make commitments to build research capacity in the Congo Basin
# How Do Members Sustain CBI?

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<td>Shared commitment to capacity building in scientific research and education</td>
<td>Fee for use for facilities</td>
<td>Representatives participate in CBI activities</td>
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<td>Are conducting teaching and training activities in the Congo Basin</td>
<td>Participate in joint grant-writing efforts</td>
<td>(Advisory Council, Working Groups)</td>
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<td>Are committed to partnering with scientists and students from other countries</td>
<td>Recommend Central African students and researchers to participate in activities</td>
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<td>Provide additional facilities or other assets</td>
<td>Conduct research and offer educational opportunities</td>
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How Do Members Participate?

• Use of facilities
• In the process of forming the collaborative structure
Where does CBI go from Here?
- Remote GIS/remote sensing research and training facility
- Plant tissue culture laboratory
- Entomology and pathology laboratories with insectaries, isolation room, climate control incubators, and screenhouses
- Plant, soil and water analytical lab.
- Molecular genetics laboratory
Bouamir Field Station

- The Biological Field Station in the Dja Forest Reserve host to academic programs and researchers working in the forest throughout the year.
- The facilities are basic and scholars camp while at the research site.
- Main campsite located approximately 30km from the village at Somalomo
Accommodations

• Accommodations for researchers and students visiting Cameroon available at CBI Bastos in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

• CBI Bastos - a hub for collaborations between African and international researchers.

• Furnished individual and bunk rooms, kitchen, bathrooms, workspaces and WIFI internet access.

• Accommodation in a gated complex with 24-hour security in the Bastos neighborhood of Yaoundé.
Relationship with CBFP
CBI as Solution Maker

• A permanent presence in the region. CBI is based not in New York or Paris but in Cameroon — the “hinge” between Western and Central Africa, and a country diverse in culture, landscapes and biodiversity. Cameroon is an ideal laboratory for innovative solutions appropriate in many situations across Africa.

• An integrated approach. CBI undertakes research on climate change, poverty alleviation, food and water security, human health, and biodiversity. But we examine and understand how they interact — not as concepts in isolation.

• A focus on African scientists. We give African scientists the training and opportunities to do that research — and then bring forward those findings in ways policymakers can take into action.

• University and NGO partners – CBFP Platform. CBI brings together leading universities, NGOs, government ministries, and corporate and local stakeholders. CBI draws on the University of California — the largest university system in the world, with 200,000 faculty — as well as other university and NGO partners in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Cameroon.
Joining CBI

• Open to invitations of all types that share our commitment to research and education in the Congo Basin

• Steps:
  • Work with us to determine how the organization might participate
  • Draft Participant Agreement
  • Assessment by the Review Committee and Joint Steering Committee
  • Sign Participant Agreement
  • Participate in CBI!

Please reach out to Dr. Kevin Njabo or Virginia Zaunbrecher for more information