



CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP

# THE 19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF PARTIES OF THE CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP THEMATIC SUMMARY AND COMPENDIUM

05. – 08. JULY 2022 IN LIBREVILLE, GABON

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## List of Abbreviations

CAFI	Central African Forest Initiative
CBFP	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CIRAD	Agricultural Research Centre for International Development
COMIFAC	Central African Forest Commission
COMIFAC Declaration	Declaration of commitment by COMIFAC member states to the forests of Central Africa and call for equitable financing and Fair Share
CoP	Conference of Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLAG	Field Legality Advisory Group
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade regulation
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IPLC	Indigenous People and Local Communities
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
Joint Statement	CoP 26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement
MoP	Meeting of Parties of the CBFP
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PA	Protected Area
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
SWM	Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme
UCLA	University of California, Los Angeles
USFS	United States Forest Service
WWF	World Wide Fund For Nature

## The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties of the CBFP: Thematic Summary

### Introduction

The CBFP is a Type II partnership as understood by the UN and resulted from the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. It is a multi-actor platform shaped by its currently 125 diverse members. In addition to the forested Congo Basin countries of the COMIFAC space, it also includes donor countries, international organisations, international NGOs, universities and research institutions, private sector and civil society actors.

The annual MoPs offer the opportunity to exchange information, discuss current and new topics and coordinate and prioritize activities. From 5 to 8 July 2022, Member parties to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) met in Libreville, Gabon, for their 19<sup>th</sup> annual general assembly, known as Meeting of Parties (MoP). This meeting celebrated the 20th anniversary of the partnership. The meeting was organized by the CBFP Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany in close collaboration with the Republic of Gabon and the Central Africa Forest Commission (COMIFAC), with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ. It convened about 600 participants from among and beyond its 125 members.

The objective of the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of Parties was to move forward the implementation of the “Declaration of commitment by COMIFAC member states to the forests of Central Africa and call for equitable financing and Fair Share” (hereafter COMIFAC Declaration), signed and presented in Berlin, September 2021 during the Tropical Forest Symposium and the “CoP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement” (hereafter Donor Statement). The COMIFAC Declaration was the product of an intensive multi-stakeholder consultation process within CBFP over the course of one year and represents the various voices and perspectives of the CBFP’s member base.

The 19th Meeting of Parties of the CBFP was co-chaired jointly by His Excellency Honourable Dr Christian Ruck, Goodwill Ambassador, CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany and His Excellency Jules Doret Ndongo, Cameroonian Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Chairman of COMIFAC, alongside His Excellency Prof. Lee White, Minister of Water, Forests, Sea and Environment in charge of the Climate Plan and Land Use Plan of Gabon, host country of the 19th Meeting of Parties.

The 19<sup>th</sup> MoP started with a technical segment, consisting of four thematic streams. This was followed by a first political segment, including meetings of the CBFP colleges and the 10th meeting of the CBFP Governing Council. A high-level political dialogue was held between high-level representatives of the CoP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement/CBFP donor countries and the ministers of Central African countries as members of ECCAS/COMIFAC.

The meeting aimed to obtain three key objectives:

1. To establish the best available practices and recommendations on key questions relevant for the implementation of the COMIFAC declaration by the Central African countries and their implementation partners. Along four overarching themes, parallel thematic streams brought together practitioners of all sectors in expert discussions. The streams were:
  - Stream 1a: Prerequisites for effective and sustainable land-use planning
  - Stream 1b: Conditions and perspectives for a sustainable timber economy
  - Stream 2: Biodiversity - The Future of Protected Areas
  - Stream 3: Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) - Opportunities and Challenges in Central Africa
2. To work towards transparency on conditions and contributions of the country pledges comprised in the Donor Statement, including also on the *COP26 IPLC forest tenure Joint Donor Statement* (Hereafter IPLC Statement).

3. To advance the thought processes on realizing the *Fair Deal*, specifically on a long-term financing agreement for the Congo Basin forests' ecological services, representing the adequate share of international climate and biodiversity budgets.

This thematic summary serves to compile the discussions, recommendations and conclusions reached over 4 intensive days of work in thematic ateliers, side events and political discussions. Adopted objectives reflect only those adopted by the CBFP parties during official sessions, most notably the 10th Governing Council and Plenary session. The seven identified themes reflect the above-mentioned objectives of the meeting. They serve as guidance to the annexed compendium, which comprises of comprehensive event summaries.

## A. Future Work and Effectiveness of the CBFP

### **Introduction**

The MoP traditionally hosts a Governing Council meeting of CBFP, where elected representatives of each CBFP stakeholder college can exchange cross-sectorally in a formalized setting on the most current issues of the partnership and the future of the CBFP as an effective network for multi-stakeholder solutions, partnerships and action. Here, the colleges are able to pass on to the facilitation their wishes, needs, inputs, and ideas, as they are established in each college's internal meetings. The 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of the CBFP took place on 7 July 2022 as part of MoP19.

### **Perspectives from the 10<sup>th</sup> CBFP Council Meeting** (see Annex I, pp.12-18)

The session commenced with a summary of the CBFP Facilitation Report of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Governing Council by its facilitator and outlined the prospects for the CBFP in the future. The facilitator stressed the importance of integrating protected areas into the management of Central African forest landscapes in synergy with other economic and social activities and announced that donors will increase their involvement in the new funding mechanisms following the commitments announced in Glasgow. The facilitator highlighted that the next facilitation roadmap should continue the efforts of the current one, which was confirmed by the representative of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who will take over the Facilitation in July 2023. The topics of the roadmap are

1. strengthening multi-actor coordination
2. enhance efforts to regulate the transhumance sub-sector under the N'Djamena Agreement, for which the current facilitation will organize a second conference
3. Strengthen the dialogue with China

The CBFP colleges commented on their concerns and recommendations for increased effectiveness within the CBFP and conveyed the following:

1. The **civil society college** calls for greater involvement of civil society in all the actions undertaken to improve forest management, both at the level of national bodies and local actions and in future international conferences (see Annex I, p. 25-27 and pp. 28-31).
2. The **international NGO college** stressed the importance of systematically recalling the proposals of the previous board meeting and reviewing their implementation. They underlined the importance of inter-college consultations and opportunities for exchange between the streams to compare points of view. A new college lead by WWF and WCS was announced.
3. The **private sector college**, representing actors from the forestry, agro-industry, mining, SME/SMI and craft sectors, stressed the importance of focusing on concrete approaches.

For the next meeting, it is proposed a) to work on a landscape approach as discussion unit to move beyond compartmentalization of issues and facilitate follow-ups with clear recommendations and objectives elaborated by the CBFP actors; b) to work on the issue of carbon as a key issue for the future; c) beyond the forestry and conservation sectors, the CBFP Meetings of Parties should involve further sectors and stakeholders to be effective, including the responsible ministries of COMIFAC countries, respectively; and d) organize a consultation meeting on PES/biodiversity. (see Annex I, pp.23-24)

4. The **scientific college** summarized the activities and development of the networks involved in forestry and environmental training in Central Africa over the past thirty years, stressing the importance of mobilizing substantial financial resources, particularly for the training of new doctoral students, but also for developing new training and applied research offers.
5. The **college of financial partners** recalled that meetings between donors had accelerated in 2022, following the Glasgow Declaration. The United Kingdom is now co-leader of this college. The issue at stake is working on the various possible approaches for the provision of financial resources announced in Glasgow and preparing the announcements expected at the forthcoming COP 27 in Egypt

#### ***Adopted Objectives of the 10<sup>th</sup> CBFP Governing Council Meeting on future work and effectiveness of the CBFP***

- The Parties expressed their satisfaction and appreciation for the achievements of the Federal Republic of Germany's CBFP Facilitation, which will end in June 2023, and welcomed the fact that the Federal Republic of Germany confirms its commitment to remain a committed and active member of the CBFP with new funding pledges for Central Africa.
- The Parties welcome the United States of America for launching the fourth phase of the CARPE programme in Central Africa.
- The Parties welcomed the French Republic for agreeing to take over the CBFP Facilitation and were grateful to the Federal Republic of Germany for their continued support for the first half of 2023 to enable a successful handover of the CBFP Facilitation by France.

## **B. Transparency on the CoP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement**

### ***Introduction***

Through the Leadership of the United Kingdom's CoP26 Presidency under Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith and on the sidelines Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use of 2 November 2021, a US\$1.5 billion pledge by a united group of twelve donors, including the entirety of the CBFP Donor's College at the time, was achieved. This *CoP26 Joint Donor Statement* was a major success and built on the achievement in September of the same year of the signature of the COMIFAC Declaration at the Berlin Tropical Forest Symposium.

Given the membership overlap, the follow-up work of the Glasgow donor group was integrated into the CBFP Donor college. Further details with the aim of working towards transparency on the details, amounts and conditionalities of the respective pledges were discussed during high-level sessions at MoP19.

### ***Adopted Objectives***

After the Cop 26 in Glasgow and COMIFAC's and CBFP's joint efforts, the parties have noted considerable progress regarding the international visibility of the importance of Central African forests and their ecosystem services for the whole of Africa and the world. They welcomed the successful conduct of the High-Level Political Dialogue, allowing them to obtain more details on the financial



commitments made in Glasgow under the CoP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement (USD 1.5 billion) and to discuss the arrangements and financial mechanisms that would facilitate better coordination and greater efficacy of funding, contributions and interventions in Central Africa.

The Parties called for continued efforts to accelerate the implementation of the *Declaration of commitment by COMIFAC member states to the forests of Central Africa and call for equitable financing and Fair Share*, and the *CoP 26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement of Glasgow* for better forest governance and access to a fair percentage of climate and biodiversity funding.

## C. Implementation of the Fair Deal, a long-term financing vision of the Congo Basin forests

### **Introduction**

The forests of the Congo Basin are facing multiple pressures that threaten their continued existence and integrity. Both artisanal and industrial pressures are increasing, and evidence is mounting that a sell-out of the forests is underway. At the core of this issue is the lack of economic competitiveness and viability of standing forests in comparison to alternative land uses, that involve degradation or deforestation of forested areas.

The COMIFAC Declaration of September 2021, which was the result of a 2-year stakeholder consultation process within CBFP, gave rise to the concept of the *Fair Deal* for the Congo Basin. It calls for an adequate share of international climate financing for the Congo Basin as reimbursement for the positive ecological effects of the Congo Basin forests under the rationale that forest protection must pay off.

The deal aims to create incentives for forest conservation and sustainable land use. The international community must offer positive financial incentives for forest conservation and curb counterproductive subsidies. Public forest financing, e.g. from climate finance, must be strengthened, and private funding must be specifically promoted. Access to finance must be facilitated, coordination between the various donors and funds increased, and resolution made more effective and efficient. The valorisation of forests must be strengthened, instruments for the remuneration of nature-based solutions (NbS) including REDD+ must be further developed and used intensively.

In return, Congo Basin countries need to assume responsibility and show increased commitment to the saving of their forests under involvement of the local population and act as competent partners who effectively pursue and implement ambitious forest governance reforms, institutional strengthening and safeguarding of land rights.

### **Recommendations** (see Annex III, pp. 84-87)

1. Concerning better coordination and joint programming among donor initiatives:
  - a. Appointing a fundraising manager, potentially using the OFAC structure, to help streamline financing process
  - b. Enhancing information sharing for improved coordination, e.g. by use of (existing) data bases or the CBFP Donor College as host structure
  - c. Set up coordination structures at multiple levels (regional and national) operated by host countries and appropriate regional institutions
2. Concerning functional and effective financing models
  - a. Include microfinancing in a comprehensive finance model, as it is capable of delivering finance at the community level

### **Adopted Objectives**

The Parties called for continued efforts to prepare Central Africa's contributions to ensure progress in the forthcoming international negotiations on climate change and biodiversity conservation, with specific proposals for donors on financial support and long-term subsidies for the sustainable management of

forests and forest landscapes by structuring the available funding; and for COMIFAC countries on the effective and transparent use of the funds made available, and the physical and legal security of medium- and long-term investments in the landscapes

With regard to enhanced coordination and joint programming in the Congo Basin, the Parties urge the financial mechanisms, funds, programs and projects of CBFP members to make use of existing expertise and skills within COMIFAC in the implementation of their operations. This is to ensure better regional ownership and systematically seize opportunities for structured dialogue and exchange within the CBFP, which is experiencing growth.

With regard to an efficient financing architecture, the Parties:

- insist on the importance of pursuing, in an accelerated manner, the implementation of the commitments of the COMIFAC Declaration. They propose to intensify the institutional dialogue on the establishment of appropriate instruments for payment of ecosystem services such as those associated with carbon sequestration, biodiversity and the water cycle; and that the necessary technical and financial solutions be developed for this, in particular for protected areas
- propose the creation of a " Task Force " responsible for developing modalities and procedures to ensure improved governance and the disbursement of payments for ecological services.  
[The Task Force was since launched in Sharm El-Sheikh on the margins of CoP27 in November 2022 and under the auspices of Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and his Excellency Jules Doret Ndongo, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroun and acting President of COMIFAC. During this hybrid event, members of the Task Force introduced themselves and affirmed their commitment. The first expert-level work session will take place on the margin of the CoP15 of the Convention of Biological Diversity in December 2022.]

## D. Stream 1a: Pre-requisites for effective and sustainable land-use planning

### **Introduction**

Central Africa's forests, which have long been spared from intensive land use and conversion, are increasingly affected by deforestation. The drivers of deforestation are increasing, including expansion of cities due to a rapidly growing population, growing demand for agricultural or forest products (wood energy, timber) on domestic markets, while new road infrastructure facilitates the exploitation of forest resources and land to develop agriculture.

A new organisation of spaces would be necessary to produce food, wood, energy and fibres at the same time as preserving the ecosystems that provide essential ecosystem services to the populations. Spatial planning is one of the key instruments to achieve this re-organization, which is why a cross-sectoral and inclusive discourse on the future of spatial land-use planning in Central African countries is imperative. Successful planning involves a balanced mix of context analysis, public consultation, pragmatic planning and the selection of financially and politically feasible implementation strategies.

The issue of the extractive mining and hydrocarbons industries deserves particular attention in this context. While artisanal activities has been shown as the major driver of deforestation, the role of industrial and semi-mechanised mining activities is an emerging and exacerbating issue. The legislative social and environmental regulations are weaker compared to other extractive industries relevant for deforestation. Most mining regulations in the Congo Basin do not require environmental impact assessments or stakeholder consultation processes (free, prior and informed consent), occasionally causing social tensions. Mining permits are habitually granted without regard to existing land use plans, protected area designations or other pre-existing land uses and rights. In practice, the rejection of mining permits remains very difficult and growing demand for mining products for the green technology industries aggravates this.

Current challenges to the implementation of successful land use planning include a lack of consensus on the purpose, processes and tools of spatial planning; weak inter-sectoral coordination

leading to lacking complementarity between spatial and operational planning (*see Annex II, pp. 32-45*)

**Recommendations of Stream 1a** (*see Annex II.1, unless otherwise stated*)

1. Create formalised spaces for dialogue and coordination of spatial planning to identify, review and revitalise the frameworks for consultation in this area at local, provincial, national and regional level; and to take stock of their missions and effectiveness in meeting the requirements of sustainable development, decentralisation and inclusive multi-sectoral representation.
  - In these formalised spaces for dialogue, it is recommended to (i) analyse all land use planning instruments and clarify the objective, scope, enforceability, horizontal (between sectors) and vertical articulation (between levels of government - central and decentralised) in the spirit of decentralisation; and (ii) share experiences on the preparation and implementation of land use plans, learning from successes and failures.
  - Consider deforestation drivers such as woodfuel production in land use planning (*see CIFOR, pp. 91-92*)
  - Adopt a decentralised approach to the development of land use plans at the local level, guided by national policies and strategies, national and sub-national schemes. sufficiently clear priorities adapted to each jurisdiction's conditions; quality technical tools and analysis and expert facilitation, with a view to reaching a consensus on the sustainable development strategy at the level of each jurisdiction
  - Launch a regional programme, which could be translated into country programmes, to support local land use facilitators in regions where land tensions are the greatest, together with specialised decentralised administrations.
2. Delineate and secure rural areas to guarantee their sustainability through models of governance and land tenure security adapted to each type of activity and stakeholder (state, private sector, communities, vulnerable groups). These models must recognise, secure and ensure the inclusive management of overlapping rights.
3. Prioritise and incentivise the protection of high value forests. To do so, it is recommended to:
  - Develop a common definition of high value forests in cultural, socio-economic, biodiversity and carbon terms, through participatory processes, in order to integrate these areas into land use and allocation plans and policies.
  - Prioritise the sustainability of high value forests by ensuring equitable burden and benefit sharing between local, national and international stakeholders, including through appropriate, transparent and sustainable financing mechanisms, such as PES and carbon finance.
  - When net losses of high-value forests cannot be avoided, develop standards for assessing the impacts of structuring public and private investments and develop appropriate environmental and social compensation mechanisms.

## **E. Stream 1b: Conditions and perspectives for a sustainable timber economy**

### **Introduction**

Central African timber occupies only about 1% (volume) or 1,5% (value) of the international timber market. With timber prices falling, the export value has changed very little despite a 35% increase in volume over the past 10 years. Internationally, the fight against illegal and unsustainable logging has produced a variety of timber regulations, which aim at increased traceability, legality and sustainability.

Implementation of these systems faces many challenges, however. The governance of the forestry sector is problematic, particularly in relation to the supply chains of the Asian and domestic markets. In countries with a large population and strong demographic growth, such as Cameroon and the DRC, the formalisation of the informal sector is urgent. Sustainable forest management certification, despite the high quality of certificates in Central Africa, suffers from the international public image of weak forest

governance in tropical countries. On the other hand, exporting and importing countries need to share a common vision of defining the legality and traceability of products along the supply chain.

In making reference to the commitments made in the COMIFAC Declaration, the challenges faced by the timber sector and suitable solutions in the areas of forest governance, forest management, social and community forestry and industry development were discussed. (see *Annex II, pp.48-58*)

**Recommendations of Stream 1b** (see *Annex II.2, unless otherwise stated*)

1. Concerning the continuous improvement of forest management:
  - a. Ensure a sustainable balance between the availability of the wood resource and the installed industrial and artisanal primary processing capacity.
  - b. Adopt a landscape, multi-use and inclusive approach in the framework of second rotation management plans.
  - c. Develop a regulatory framework to prepare management plans for the second rotation.
  - d. Hold states and the private sector accountable for monitoring schemes (See *CIRAD, DYNAFAC, pp. 99-100*)
  - e. Ensure sufficient remunerative prices to smallholders and the fight against poverty within communities in forest areas as part of sustainable production of agricultural commodities, including also the development and effective implementation of appropriate agricultural codes by the states concerned (see *CIFOR, PROFOREST, UCLA, pp. 95-96*)
2. Concerning the improvement of the image and reputation of forest governance in Central Africa
  - a. Support the operationalisation of national digital traceability and legality verification systems and facilitate bridges between private and public systems.
  - b. Encourage and promote forest certification for legality and sustainability (see as example *FSC, pp.107-109*).
  - c. Support countries in setting up economic intelligence units to manage the sustainable development of the timber sector and anticipate market developments.
3. Concerning the strengthening of social forestry and the reduction of demographic pressure
  - a. Promote communal forests and collaboration between concessionaires and decentralised territorial entities within the framework of concerted management of landscapes and forest massifs and the different statuses of forests under concession, conservation, communal or community forests (see also *Climate Focus, pp.103-104*).
  - b. Implement gender-sensitive community management approaches on both implementation and regulatory levels (see *Client Earth, Brainforest, pp. 101-102*)
4. Concerning the improvement of forest resource development and the supply of legal wood to the domestic market
  - a. Apply ECCAS Decision N°29 and N°30 of 2015 to promote the supply of legal timber to domestic and regional markets, with exemption from VAT and customs duties for timber destined for domestic and intra-community markets
  - b. Integrate into public procurement regulations the obligation to purchase legal timber
  - c. Provide a stable regulatory and fiscal framework to attract investment in wood processing for SMEs.
  - d. Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders through the development of vocational training.
  - e. Promote products made from diversification species, including bamboo

5. Concerning the EU's legislative proposal on deforestation-free supply chains (see *FERN, CBFP, CAFI*, pp.82-83)
  - a. Seek and promote dialogue with Central African states and stakeholders, particularly civil society (incl. local and indigenous forest communities).
  - b. Offer support to states and companies in the creation of land use and development plans that take into account forest cover while developing the economy should be a priority.
  - c. Recognize Voluntary Partnership Agreements under the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) regulation
  - d. Avoid punitive and restrictive approaches, that run counter to national development strategies of riparian states.

### **Adopted Objectives**

The Parties called for continued efforts to:

- cooperate closely with other key sectors of the rural economy beyond forestry and the environment such as agriculture, livestock, mining, oil and gas, infrastructure, energy and social sectors;
- promote enhanced engagement of the partnership with private sector entities and dialogue with China for a clean tropical timber trade.

## **F. Biodiversity and the Future of Protected Areas (Stream 2)**

### **Introduction**

In Central Africa, numerous models and combinations of protective designations are in use to protect its main ecological zones. The question of their future arises and therefore the question of the management model of these protected areas (PAs) in a long-term sustainability approach, knowing that demographic pressure is increasingly prevalent, and even sometimes already very strong in the most populated regions, or those considered to be the last settlement areas for humans, but also for their herds.

Central African states allocate only a small public budget to PA management despite having ratified international commitments. It remains difficult and often impossible to allocate substantial budgets to wildlife protection areas while the country's populations remain poor. International public development aid slows down but does not stop or reverse the deterioration of these landscapes, as it does not allow for the significant and lasting strengthening of the failing administrations in charge of their management. Moreover, the human resources necessary for good governance and management of the different categories of PAs are insufficient in quantity and quality.

Solving this is a question of creating a favourable environment so that the conditions for balanced development can exist on the scale of the landscape within which the PA is one element among others in the planning of the territory and its socio-economic development. Some states will have to choose between increased protection and the transformation of land into agriculture and livestock farming. The question of the economic and social yield of protected areas is therefore a pressing one, because if PAs remain unproductive, future pressures could lead to their disappearance. (see *Annex II, pp. 64-72*)

### **Recommendations of Stream 2 (see Annex II.3 unless otherwise stated)**

1. In terms of aligning the size of conservation areas with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) target of 30% of land surface conversion into conservation areas by 2030, COMIFAC member states are invited to:
  - a. increase funding, improve management, identify other effective conservation measures by zones (OECM), and focus scarce resources on smaller areas to improve the management effectiveness of protected areas.
  - b. Improve coordination of 30x30 initiatives

- c. evaluate the opportunity of the 30x30 strategy to formalise community lands as important areas for forest conservation; and study its social impacts on IPLC
2. With regard to effective management models and sustainable financing of protected areas in Central Africa, COMIFAC member states are invited to:
  - a. adapt management models according to their needs and specificities and seek innovative models to capitalise, recognise and integrate local natural resource governance structures into decision-making and sustainable development (see as example *WWF*, pp.124-125)
  - b. Improve the legal and procedural environment, and diversify sustainable financing initiatives for protected areas
  - c. Respect human rights and create coalitions with communities (see also *Climate Focus*, pp.103-104)
3. Concerning institutional capacity building, COMIFAC member states are invited to:
  - a. create a sub-regional centre of excellence in the field of biodiversity in Central Africa's forests, bringing together all the best practices and capitalising on regional experience in the management of protected areas
  - b. Strengthen at the relevant sub-regional, national and territorial levels the role of competent territorial authorities in the governance of protected areas and OECM
  - c. Strengthen the capacity of civil society around protected areas to support sustainable development of natural resources.
4. Regarding the protection of peatlands (see *CIFOR, USFS*, pp.97-98, unless otherwise stated)
  - a. Support further research on the extent, biological properties and economic valuation, as well as the threats and other competing land uses for peatlands in the Congo Basin (see also *CAFI, FAO*, pp. 80-81)
  - b. Establish strategic dialogue with the private sector to develop strategies and measures for the sustainable management and protection of peatlands
  - c. Explore innovative financing mechanisms such as sustainable Finance Facilities, collaborative partnerships with private sector to drive sustainable development in peatland areas.
  - d. Realize holistic management approaches, synergizing with other national processes (e.g. REDD+, national land use planning, agriculture policies)
  - e. Establish a legal and institutional framework, and strategies and measures to ensure the sustainable protection and management of peatlands and consider peatlands in national adaptation and mitigation strategies
  - f. Strengthen the exchange of information, best practices and experiences in peatlands conservation and sustainable management between Congo basin countries and countries in other tropical basins (Amazon and Southeast Asia)
5. Regarding the development of eco-tourism in the protected areas of Central Africa, COMIFAC member states are encouraged to rapidly develop the various tourism segments within the multiple ecosystems of Central Africa by:
  - e. improving the business climate in the tourism sector, in particular by granting of electronic tourist visas and the strengthening of road and air access infrastructures to protected areas
  - f. creating a sub-regional ecotourism quality label and reinforce the security of goods and people
  - g. Facilitate and secure private investment in tourist services and offer fiscal advantages to investors in difficult areas
6. Concerning community development and the respect of human rights in and around protected areas in order to allow for better integration of protected areas into their economic and social

environment and to limit the emergence of conflicts between actors, riparian populations and wildlife, COMIFAC Member States are encouraged to:

- a. put the human dimension at the centre of conservation, including in demographic forecasting, and set up a verification mechanism that allows for the observation, by mutual agreement, of possible allegations of human rights violations and for deciding jointly (Donor, State and other accused actors) on corrective measures.
- b. Promote respect for the right to free, prior and informed consent and adopt a human rights compliance framework for conservation at the appropriate regional level
- c. Create a sub-regional platform to share knowledge and experience on human-wildlife conflict prevention and management and develop a sub-regional platform to manage human-wildlife conflicts
- d. Support (financial and technical partners) and seek dialogue (administrations) with civil society organizations in their work for legal monitoring and procedural support to communities in cases of environmental litigation (see *FLAG, CJ, Brainforest*, pp. 101-102).

7. Concerning the peaceful Management of Transhumance:

- a. Adopt a multidisciplinary and multi-level approach to the regional cross-border management of transhumance for peaceful coexistence as an alternative to the traditional management which carries within it multivariate conflicts (see *CBFP, GIZ, WCS, APN*, pp. 88-90) and establish conflict-sensitive dialogue platforms (see *GIZ*, pp.110-111)
- b. Support the institutional anchoring of the "Peaceful Transhumance Action" of countries and their strategic partners to ensure good coordination of actions. (see *CBFP, GIZ, WCS, APN*, pp. 88-90)
- c. Ensure sustainable funding sources for Country Investment Plans (see *CBFP, GIZ, WCS, APN*, pp. 88-90)
- d. Include (agro)pastoralist interest groups and marginalized groups in policy development and management of pastoralism at regional, (sub)national and local level and ensure knowledge-sharing about regulations and follow-up on implementation (see *GIZ*, pp.110-111)

8. Concerning Wildlife management:

- a. Adapt wildlife management models to local contextual realities through multi-disciplinary approaches that consider ecological, economic and social dimensions of sustainability, with particular emphasis of participatory wildlife governance and management; and ensure lasting investment and streamlining of related processes (law reforms, tenure regimes, etc.) (see *SWM*, pp. 117-118)
- b. In the context of forest elephant conservation, actors are encouraged to harmonise their methods and initiate collaborative projects that include partnerships with extractive industries (see *WWF, IUCN*, pp.121-123).
- c. Initiatives such as carbon credits, wildlife credits and other funding for biodiversity and ecosystem services should be tested and implemented if successful (see *WWF, IUCN*, pp.121-123)

**Adopted Objectives**

With regard to transhumance:

- the Parties congratulate ECCAS for having agreed to provide institutional and organizational support for the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration, in close collaboration with the ECOWAS and IGAD sub-regional organizations. The Parties welcome the proposal by the German Facilitation to organize a "N'Djamena 2" conference together with ECCAS and in collaboration with its funding partners.

- The Parties congratulate Germany for its commitment to finance a regional project on the management of transhumance between the Sahel and the Congo Basin; and the European Union for having included a section on transhumance in its new Naturafrica program. Synergy and collaboration in the pooling of resources is recommended. The Parties encourage the technical and financial partners to contribute to the preparation of priority investment programs on transhumance in the context of preparing N'Djamena 2
- The Parties welcome the conducting of the CTSA/CBSA Council of Ministers in the context of the implementation of the Cameroon-CAR-Chad cross-border agreements and encourage the finalization of the cross-border agreements currently under negotiation in the geographical blocks for the follow-up of the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration.

## **G. Opportunities and Challenges for Forest Landscape Restoration in Central Africa (Stream 3)**

### **Introduction**

Next to conservation and sustainable management, restoration of degraded forest lands and re-/ or afforestation represent the third pillar in the fight for the safeguarding of Central Africa's tropical forests.

In the last decade, Africa continued an upward trajectory of deforestation and degradation with a net annual forest loss of 3.94 million ha from 2010-2020 (FAO, 2021). As much as 65% of productive land in Africa is in different states of degradation. As a consequence, desertification further increases. The annual global cost of land degradation as a result of land use/cover change and degrading management practices are estimated to range from 300 to 490 billion USD. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for the largest share of this.

Degraded forests in Central Africa represent about 7% of the remaining tropical moist forest area (up to 30% if we consider forests located on the edge of disturbed areas), and about 40% of all forest disturbances (deforestation, regeneration and degradation).

Against backdrop of the Bonn challenge (2011), African governments have made ambitious voluntary restoration commitments. In 2015, the regional African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) was launched to restore 100 million hectares (ha) of degraded forest and land by 2030. Central African countries' commitments to landscape restoration have the potential to deliver about three times more the climate benefits of all GCF allocations to date... These Central African commitments represent 24% of global commitments and 28% of African countries' commitments under the Bonn challenge.

For effective forest landscape restoration (FLR), an understanding of the best available practices in the context of a sound land use planning approach is key, to answer where and how FLR can be realized in the Congo Basin. (see *Annex II, pp. 75-78*)

### **Recommendations of Stream 3 (see Annex II.4, unless otherwise stated)**

1. Define and implement a regulatory and jurisdictional FLR framework and strategy, including land tenure with property and land use rights, as a prerequisite for implementing FLR. This should be based on a clear national definition of what this approach entails, building on existing regional platforms and initiatives such as AFR100 and the Bonn Challenge to define a framework and scale up progress.
2. Adopt participatory and bottom-up approaches that include local communities, based on a "collective vision", participatory land-use planning and local consultation platforms involving all stakeholders
3. Strengthen the integration of sustainable agricultural practices and agroforestry into the FLR approach to strengthen food security and design business models based on value chain development
4. Meet the energy demands of a growing population through sustainable fuelwood production, including small-scale high rotation plantations and agroforestry



5. Improve access to finance for FLR through the development of long-term financial mechanisms: build on existing partnerships to improve access to finance and implement progress
6. Harness the potential for restoration around protected areas to reduce pressure on remaining high conservation value areas
7. Ensure continued knowledge sharing and capacity building on FLR at all levels and continued integration of supporting research results into practice.
8. Strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration at national, regional and local levels between forestry, water, agriculture, planning, etc.
9. Build on the Kigali Declaration (2016) and the main conclusions of the COMIFAC Extraordinary Council of Ministers of March 2018 on the "Common Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the Implementation of Countries' Commitments in the Bonn Challenge", one of whose main recommendations was to propose an investment programme for landscape restoration in Central Africa.

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Final Communiqué of the 19th CBFP Meeting of Parties

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### CBFP celebrates its 20th anniversary

### Final Communiqué of the 19th Meeting of Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership from 5-8 July 2022

#### Libreville, Gabon

Member parties to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) met in Libreville, Gabonese Republic, from 5 to 8 July 2022 for their 19th meeting and celebrated the 20th anniversary of their Partnership.

The Parties warmly thank His Excellency **Mr. Ali BONGO ONDIMBA**, President of the Gabonese Republic, Head of State, the authorities and the people of Gabon, and His Excellency **Prof. Lee WHITE**, Minister of Water, Forestry, Sea and Environment charged with the Climate and Land Use Plan of Gabon, for their hospitality and for their contributions to the success of this meeting.

The 19th Meeting of Parties of the CBFP brought together about 600 participants representing Central African countries, donor countries, international organisations, NGOs, civil society, representatives of research institutions and representatives of the private sector.

The 19th Meeting of Parties of the CBFP is organized with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ.

The opening session of the streams was marked by 5 speeches, namely:

- The welcome address by the **Honourable Dr. Christian RUCK**, CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany
- The speech by **His Excellency Dr. Honoré TABUNA**, Commissioner for the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development of the ECCAS Commission
- The speech by **His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret NDONGO**, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon, current President of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC)
- The opening speech of Gabon by **His Excellency Michel Stéphane BONDA**, Minister Delegate of Water, Forest, Sea and Environment in charge of the Climate and Land Use Plan, Gabon.

**Dr. Richard EBA'A ATYI**, CIFOR-ICRAF Regional Director for Central Africa, introduced the debates of the 19th Meeting of Parties with a presentation on the issues, challenges and prospects for the future of the Congo Basin forests.

This 19th Meeting of Parties of the CBFP was co-chaired by His Excellency Dr. Christian RUCK, Goodwill Ambassador, Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany for the CBFP and His Excellency Jules Doret NDONGO, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon, current President of COMIFAC. At their side was further His Excellency Prof. Lee WHITE of Gabon.

The High Level Political Dialogue between donor representatives of CBFP as signatories to the CoP 26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement and Central African Ministers as members of ECCAS/COMIFAC was co-chaired by His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret NDONGO and the Right Honourable Lord GOLDSMITH OF RICHMOND PARK, Minister for the Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), President of the CoP 26. The partners present confirmed their commitment to support the Congo Basin in its efforts to conserve forests and biodiversity. Some partners are considering increasing

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their contributions.

#### **The main outcomes of the 19th Meeting of the Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership were as follows:**

- After the Cop 26 in Glasgow and COMIFAC's and CBFP's joint efforts, the Parties have noted considerable progress regarding the international visibility of the importance of Central African forests and their ecosystem services for the whole of Africa and the world. The CBFP Parties insist on the importance of pursuing, in an accelerated manner, the implementation of the commitments of the *Declaration of commitment by COMIFAC member states to the forests of Central Africa and call for equitable financing and Fair Share* announced in Berlin by the ECCAS/COMIFAC countries in September 2021 and confirmed in Glasgow at COP 26.
- The Parties welcomed the successful conduct of the High-Level Political Dialogue, allowing them to obtain more details on the financial commitments made in Glasgow for the COMIFAC member countries as part of the *CoP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement* (USD 1.5 billion) and to discuss the arrangements and financial mechanisms that would facilitate better coordination and greater efficacy of funding, contributions and interventions in Central Africa;
- The Parties propose the creation of a " Task Force " responsible for developing modalities and procedures to ensure improved governance and the disbursement of payments for ecological services;
- The parties propose to intensify the institutional dialogue on the establishment of appropriate instruments for payment of ecosystem services such as those associated with carbon sequestration, biodiversity and the water cycle; and that the necessary technical and financial solutions be developed for this, in particular for protected areas;
- With regard to transhumance, the Parties congratulate ECCAS for having agreed to provide institutional and organisational support for the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration, in close collaboration with the ECOWAS and IGAD sub-regional organisations. The Parties welcome the proposal by the German Facilitation to organise a "N'Djamena 2" conference together with ECCAS and in collaboration with its funding partners.
- The Parties congratulate Germany for its commitment to finance a regional project on the management of transhumance between the Sahel and the Congo Basin; and the European Union for having included a section on transhumance in its new Naturafrica programme. Synergy and collaboration in the pooling of resources is recommended. The Parties encourage the technical and financial partners to contribute to the preparation of priority investment programmes on transhumance in the context of preparing N'Djamena II.
- The Parties welcome the conducting of the CTSA/CBSA Council of Ministers in the context of the implementation of the Cameroon-CAR-Chad cross-border agreements and encourage the finalisation of the cross-border agreements currently under negotiation in the geographical blocks for the follow-up of the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration.
- The Parties urge the financial mechanisms, funds, programmes and projects of CBFP members to make use of existing expertise and skills within COMIFAC in the implementation of their operations. This is to ensure better regional ownership and systematically seize opportunities for structured dialogue and exchange within the CBFP, which is experiencing growth.
- The Parties expressed their satisfaction and appreciation for the achievements of the Federal Republic of Germany's CBFP Facilitation, which will end in December 2022, and welcomed the fact that the Federal Republic of Germany confirms its commitment to remain a committed and active member of the CBFP with new funding pledges for Central Africa.
- The Parties welcome the United States of America for launching the fourth phase of the CARPE programme in Central Africa.
- The Parties welcomed The French Republic for agreeing to take over the CBFP Facilitation, and were grateful to the Federal Republic of Germany for their continued support for the first half of 2023 to enable a successful handover of the CBFP Facilitation by France.

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- The Parties called for continued efforts to promote the following objectives:
  1. Prepare Central Africa's contributions to ensure progress in the forthcoming international negotiations on climate change and biodiversity conservation, with specific proposals for donors on financial support and long-term subsidies for the sustainable management of forests and forest landscapes by structuring the available funding; and for COMIFAC countries on the effective and transparent use of the funds made available, and the physical and legal security of medium- and long-term investments in the landscapes
  2. Accelerate the implementation of the *Declaration of commitment by COMIFAC member states to the forests of Central Africa and call for equitable financing and Fair Share*, and the *CoP 26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement* of Glasgow for better forest governance and access to a fair percentage of climate and biodiversity funding.
  3. Cooperate closely with other key sectors of the rural economy beyond forestry and the environment such as agriculture, livestock, mining, oil and gas, infrastructure, energy and social sectors.
  4. Promote enhanced engagement of the partnership with private sector entities and dialogue with China for a clean tropical timber trade.

The thematic streams produced a number of recommendations on key issues related to the protection and sustainable management of Congo Basin forests, protected areas and restoration of degraded landscapes. They also provided a number of other valuable documents and tools for CBFP partners. The details of the recommendations are contained in the attached annexes and below is a summary of their main points:

#### **Stream 1a Prerequisites for effective and sustainable land-use planning**

Spatial planning is seen by several global conventions as a basic tool to realize sustainable development objectives. To achieve this, harmonisation of spatial planning concepts and practice between actors is necessary. It is recommended to:

- A. **Create formalised spaces for dialogue and coordination of spatial planning** to identify, review and revitalise the frameworks for consultation in this area at local, provincial, national and regional level; and to take stock of their missions and effectiveness in meeting the requirements of sustainable development, decentralisation and inclusive multi-sectoral representation.
- B. **Delineate and secure rural areas** to guarantee their sustainability through models of governance and land tenure security adapted to each type of activity and stakeholder (state, private sector, communities, vulnerable groups). These models must recognise, secure and ensure the inclusive management of overlapping rights.
- C. **Prioritise and incentivise the protection of high value forests. Todo so, it is recommended to:**
  1. Develop a common definition of high value forests in cultural, socio-economic, biodiversity and carbon terms, through participatory processes, in order to integrate these areas into land use and allocation plans and policies.
  2. Prioritise the sustainability of high value forests by ensuring equitable burden and benefit sharing between local, national and international stakeholders, including through appropriate, transparent and sustainable financing mechanisms, such as PES and carbon finance.
  3. When net losses of high-value forests cannot be avoided, develop standards for assessing the impacts of structuring public and private investments and develop

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appropriate environmental and social compensation mechanisms.

#### **Stream 1b Conditions and perspectives for a sustainable timber economy**

##### **A. Concerning the continuous improvement of forest management :**

1. Ensure a sustainable balance between the availability of the wood resource and the installed industrial and artisanal primary processing capacity.
2. Adopt a landscape, multi-use and inclusive approach in the framework of second rotation management plans.

##### **B. Concerning the improvement of the image and reputation of forest governance in Central Africa**

1. Support the operationalisation of national digital traceability and legality verification systems and facilitate bridges between private and public systems.
2. Encourage and promote forest certification for legality and sustainability.
3. Support countries in setting up economic intelligence units to manage the sustainable development of the timber sector and anticipate market developments.

##### **C. Concerning the strengthening of social forestry and the reduction of demographic pressure**

1. Promote communal forests and collaboration between concessionaires and decentralised territorial entities within the framework of concerted management of landscapes and forest massifs and the different statuses of forests under concession, conservation, communal or community forests.

##### **D. Concerning the improvement of forest resource development and the supply of legal wood to the domestic market**

1. Apply ECCAS Decision N°29 and N°30 of 2015 to promote the supply of legal timber to domestic and regional markets, with exemption from VAT and customs duties for timber destined for domestic and intra-community markets
2. Integrate into public procurement regulations the obligation to purchase legal timber
3. Provide a stable regulatory and fiscal framework to attract investment in wood processing for SMEs.
4. Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders through the development of vocational training.
5. Promote products made from diversification species, including bamboo.

#### **Stream 2 Biodiversity: The Future of Protected Areas**

##### **A. In terms of aligning the size of conservation areas with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) target of 30% of land surface conversion into conservation areas by 2030, COMIFAC member states are invited to:**

1. increase funding, improve management, identify other effective conservation measures by zones (OECM), and focus scarce resources on smaller areas to improve the management effectiveness of protected areas.

##### **B. With regard to effective management models and sustainable financing of protected areas in Central Africa, COMIFAC member states are invited to:**

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2. adapt management models according to their needs and specificities and seek innovative models to capitalise, recognise and integrate local natural resource governance structures into decision-making and sustainable development

#### **C. Concerning institutional capacity building, COMIFAC member states are invited to:**

3. create a sub-regional centre of excellence in the field of biodiversity in Central Africa's forests, bringing together all the best practices and capitalising on regional experience in the management of protected areas

#### **D. With regard to the development of eco-tourism in the protected areas of Central Africa, COMIFAC member states are encouraged to rapidly develop the various tourism segments within the multiple ecosystems of Central Africa by:**

4. improving the business climate in the tourism sector, in particular by granting of electronic tourist visas and the strengthening of road and air access infrastructures to protected areas
5. creating a sub-regional ecotourism quality label and secure investments.
6. facilitating cross-border tourism circuits.

#### **E. Concerning community development and the respect of human rights in and around protected areas in order to allow for better integration of protected areas into their economic and social environment and to limit the emergence of conflicts between actors, riparian populations and wildlife, COMIFAC Member States are encouraged to:**

1. put the human dimension at the centre of conservation, including in the demographic outlook, and put in place a verification mechanism that allows for the observation, by mutual agreement, of possible allegations of human rights violations and to decide jointly (Donor, State and other accused actors) on corrective measures.

#### **Stream 3 recommendations in the context of "Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR): Opportunities and Challenges in Central Africa", the parties are invited to:**

- A. Define and implement a regulatory and jurisdictional FLR framework and strategy, including land tenure with property and land use rights, as a prerequisite for implementing FLR. This should be based on a clear national definition of what this approach entails, building on existing regional platforms and initiatives such as AFR100 and the Bonn Challenge to define a framework and scale up progress.
- B. Adopt participatory and bottom-up approaches that include local communities, based on a "collective vision", participatory land-use planning and local consultation platforms involving all stakeholders
- C. Strengthen the integration of sustainable agricultural practices into the FLR approach to strengthen the food security aspect and design business models based on value chain development.
- D. Improve access to finance for FLR through the development of long-term financial mechanisms: build on existing partnerships to improve access to finance and implement progress
- E. Harness the potential for restoration around protected areas to reduce pressure on remaining high conservation value areas
- F. Ensure continued knowledge sharing and capacity building on FLR at all levels and continued integration of supporting research results into practice.

The 19th Meeting of Parties of the CBFP started with a technical segment, consisting of four thematic

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streams. This was followed by a first political segment, including meetings of the CBFP colleges and the tenth meeting of the CBFP Governing Council.

A high-level political dialogue was held between high-level representatives of the *CoP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement*/CBFP donor countries and the ministers of Central African countries as members of ECCAS/COMIFAC.

Germany, through its State Secretary for Development, Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, declared a new commitment of 45 million Euros for the conservation of Central African forests.

Concerning the organisation of the work of the streams, the Parties congratulate and thank the leaders and co-leaders of the CBFP MOP 19 thematic streams, namely CAFI for Stream 1a; Gabon and ATIBT for Stream 1b, COMIFAC, AWF/WCS for Stream 2; CIFOR/IRT and GIZ for Stream 3. These thanks extend to the resource persons for the thematic streams.

Concerning the governance of the CBFP, the Parties thank the co-leaders of the outgoing colleges for their efforts to ensure proper functioning of their colleges, namely CIFOR/IRET; Earth Worm Foundation and ROSCEVAC. The Parties warmly congratulate the new Co-leaders of the following CBFP colleges: Laval University and RIFFEAC for the scientific college, the United Kingdom for the donors' college, REFACOF with RECEIAC as alternate for the civil society college, Volcanoes Safaris with Olam as alternate for the private sector college. The parties wish every success to the new co-leaders of the colleges mentioned and new members of the CBFP Governing Council.

The parties are pleased to welcome the following partners to the CBFP: Universität Göttingen - Aforpolis; Universität Frankfurt - ZIAF, the Kingdom of Sweden, IFED - Canada and the Republic of Angola.

The meeting of the parties was the occasion to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the CBFP during a special cocktail dinner. It was also an opportunity to celebrate 20 years of the Gabon National Parks Network and 30 years of the ECOFAC programme.

The inaugural session of the "General Assembly" plenary and solemn opening ceremony of the 19th CBFP plenary meeting was enhanced by the active participation of several high-level political leaders, namely:

- **His Excellency Dr. Honoré TABUNA**, Commissioner for Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development of the ECCAS Commission
- **Her Excellency Ms Chrysoula ZACHAROPOULOU**, Secretary of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships
- **The Honourable Dr. Christian RUCK**, COMIFAC Goodwill Ambassador and CBFP Facilitator for the Federal Republic of Germany
- **His Excellency Prof. Lee WHITE**, Minister of Water, Forestry, Sea and Environment in charge of the Climate Plan and Land Use Plan, Gabon
- **Rt Hon Lord GOLDSMITH OF RICHMOND PARK**, Minister for the Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), UK.
- **His Excellency Jochen FLASBARTH**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ, Germany
- **His Excellency Jules Doret NDONGO**, Minister of forestry and wildlife of Cameroon, current President of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC)
- **His Excellency Michael MOUSSA-ADAMOU**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabon

The session on the report of the German Facilitation, the stakes and perspectives was moderated by Dr. Hervé-Martial MAIDOU, Executive Secretary of COMIFAC. The CBFP Facilitator, Honorable Dr. Christian RUCK, presented his report and Mr. Philippe LACOSTE, Director of Sustainable Development, France, presented the challenges and perspectives for the French CBFP Facilitation.

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A high-level declaration session of the CBFP MOP 19 financial partners, moderated by Dr. Dany POKEM was marked by three high-level declarative interventions, namely:

- **Her Excellency Mrs. Rosario BENTO** Ambassador of the European Union to Gabon
- **Mr. Gilles KLEITZ**, Executive Director of AFD
- **His Excellency Hans BRATTSKAR**, Special Climate Envoy, Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative NICFI

The regional coordinators of REPALÉAC and RIFFEAC delivered messages to the Plenary on the *COP26 IPLC Forest Tenure Joint Donor Statement (1,7 billion \$ US)* and on the awards granted by the Democratic Republic of Congo to RIFFEAC and Laval University.

The restitution session of the streams was moderated by **Minister Raymond MBITIKON, CBFP Co-Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany**.

A high-level political closing panel of CBFP MOP 19 was moderated by **Dr. Philippe MAYAUX**, Team Leader Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, DG-INTPA, European Commission, on "Perspectives and next steps from Libreville: Where do we go from here?" The speakers were :

- **His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret NDONGO**, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon, current President of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC)
- **His Excellency Mr. Jochen FLASBARTH**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ, Germany
- **Mr. Philippe LACOSTE**, Director of Sustainable Development, France
- **The Honourable Jean-Jacques ZAM**, Regional Coordinator of REPAR-Central Africa
- **Dr. Richard EBA'A ATYI** CIFOR Central Africa Regional Coordinator
- **Ms Marie TAMOIFO**, Regional Coordinator of REJEFAC

The 19th Meeting of Parties ended with a closing ceremony chaired by His Excellency Michael MOUSSA\_ADAMO, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabon.

An exhibition centre with **a dozen stands** and **around fifty** related parallel events were also organised for all present audiences.

**Written in Libreville (Gabon), 8 July 2022**

**The participants**





## **CBFP celebrates its 20th anniversary**

### **19th Meeting of Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership**

#### **Minutes of the 10th CBFP Governing Council**

**07 July 2022**

**Libreville, Gabon**

Libreville (Gabonese Republic) - 7 July 2022 - The 10th CBFP Governing Council Meeting was held on 7 July 2022 and chaired by Hon. Dr. Christian Ruck, CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany, co-chaired by His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret Ndongo, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon, current Chairman of COMIFAC and hosted by His Excellency Prof. Lee White, represented by His Excellency Michel Stéphane Bonda, Minister Delegate of the Ministry of Water and Sanitation of Cameroon. Lee White, represented by His Excellency Michel Stéphane Bonda, Minister Delegate of the Ministry of Water, Forestry, Sea and Environment in charge of the Climate Plan and Land Use Plan, Gabon. Minister of Water, Forestry, Sea and Environment of Gabon. The meeting was enhanced by the effective participation of politicians, ministers of forestry / environment of Central African countries and High Representatives of ECCAS, COMIFAC, OCFSA and GVTC.

About 150 participants, representing the seven colleges of CBFP and about forty participants, also actively attended the meeting:

- CBFP Regional College: ECCAS, COMIFAC and Ministers accompanied by the
- COMIFAC National Coordinators of COMIFAC member countries;
- CBFP civil society college: CEFDHAC-CPR and ROSCEVAC accompanied by the
- REPAR representative;
- CBFP International NGOs College: AWF, WCS accompanied by
- CBFP Private Sector College: ATIBT and Volcanoes Safaris
- CBFP Donors' College: US – UK
- CBFP Scientific and Academic College: Uni Laval – RIFFEAC
- CBFP Multilateral College: UNESCO and GVTC

Following the introduction by the CBFP Co-Facilitator and the minute's silence held in memory of the former Executive Secretary of COMIFAC, Mr. Raymond Domba Ngoye, who passed away recently, the draft agenda was adopted by the Governing Council. The CBFP Facilitator, Hon. Dr. Ruck, and the Executive Secretary of COMIFAC, Mr. Hervé Maidou, respectively delivered keynote speeches underlining the importance of this 10th CBFP Governing Council meeting within the framework of the 19th meeting of the parties in Libreville.

Hon. Dr. Ruck gave a summary of the CBFP Facilitation Report of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Governing Council and outlined the prospects for the CBFP in the future. In this respect, he stressed the importance of fully integrating protected areas into the management of Central African forest landscapes in synergy with other economic and social activities. The next roadmap should insist on strengthening the coordination of the multiple actors involved in the Congo Basin Forest sector and make it a priority, as well as enhancing efforts to better regulate the transhumance sub-sector with regard to the implementation of the Ndjamen Agreement. A second meeting, Ndjamen 2, should be held soon. The third key point of the roadmap is to strengthen the dialogue with China, pointing out that

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### Minutes of the 10th CBFP Governing Council

the majority of Central African tropical wood is sold on the Asian markets. He announced that the College of Donors will be co-chaired by the UK, and confirms that donors will increase their involvement in the new funding mechanisms following the commitments announced in Glasgow. In conclusion, the Facilitator congratulated France for agreeing to take over the next CBFP Facilitation.

On behalf of Mr. Philippe Lacoste, Director of Sustainable Development at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, his representative Ms de Boisfleury underlined France's interest in taking over the facilitation of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. The major projects undertaken by the German facilitation will be continued by the French facilitation. The floor was given to the various CBFP college presidents to share their respective statements and recommendations:

- i. ROSEFAC and CEFDHAC, on behalf of the **Civil Society College**, call for greater involvement of civil society in all the actions undertaken to improve forest management, both at the level of national bodies and local actions and in future international conferences.
- ii. AWF, on behalf of the **international NGO college**, after acknowledging the efforts of the facilitator, stressed the importance of systematically recalling the proposals of the previous Board meeting and reviewing their implementation. He underlined the importance, during meetings of the parties, of consultations between the different colleges and of having a space to exchange between the different streams in order to be able to cross and compare points of view. He confirmed AWF's commitment to continue with the CBFP and announced that the college would henceforth be led by WWF and WCS.
- iii. ATIBT, on behalf of the **private sector college**, representing actors from the forestry, agro industry, mining, SME/SMI and craft sectors, stressed the importance of focusing on concrete approaches. For the next meeting, it is proposed a) to work on a landscape approach with all their key stakeholders, and b) to work on the issue of carbon as a key issue for the future. The private sector suggested that, beyond the forestry and conservation sectors, the CBFP consultation could be opened up more widely to stakeholders in the extractive and agricultural sectors.
- iv. Professor Khasa of the University of Laval, on behalf of the **College of Researchers and Training Institutions**, summarised the activities and development of the networks involved in forestry and environmental training in Central Africa over the past thirty years. He stressed the importance of mobilising substantial financial resources, particularly for the training of new doctoral students, but also for developing new training and applied research offers.
- v. The representative of the USA, on behalf of the **college of Financial Partners**, recalled that meetings between donors had accelerated in 2022, following the Glasgow Declaration. The United Kingdom is now co-leader of this college. The issue at stake is working on the various possible approaches for the provision of financial resources announced in Glasgow and preparing the announcements expected at the forthcoming COP 27 in Egypt.

In conclusion, the facilitator thanked all the members of the Board for their commitment. Meetings of Parties are complex exercises, with a multitude of events concentrated and often simultaneous in a single week. It is impossible to participate in everything, but everyone can participate and contribute to the discussions on the issues that are most important to them.

The current President of COMIFAC thanked Dr. Ruck for all his efforts in the German facilitation and handed him a souvenir from Cameroon.

The key message from the President of COMIFAC, following today's closed session of the Ministers, is the announcement of their commitment to honour their financing commitments to COMIFAC and even to increase the level of their contributions. It is indeed important that the Central African States strengthen their commitment for better governance of the Congo Basin forests, in order to consolidate the commitment of Central African partners to finance forest conservation and development in Central Africa.

ECCAS Commissioner Tabuna also recalled that beyond forest conservation, all development issues must remain the focus of both national and international actors in Central Africa.

On behalf of the host country of MOP19, the Minister Delegate of MINEF Gabon concluded that after 20 years of partnership within the Congo Basin, the time has come to really implement actions. This is also the time to consider and value the Central African forest, which is a gift to the planet. Meanwhile, the

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COMIFAC/CEEAC countries are confronted with enormous development needs that call for a holistic approach at the level of landscapes. The COMIFAC countries are confident that with the French facilitation, which will soon follow the German facilitation, they can move forward and take new steps together. The Minister Delegate concluded by thanking the German Facilitation and all forest management actors in Central Africa.



## **19th Meeting of Parties to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (MOP19): ending and closing**

From July 5 and July 8, 2022, the city of Libreville, Gabon hosted the 19th Meeting of Parties to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. Through workshops, talks, and round tables, participants spent four (4) days figuring out how to speed up the implementation of the COMIFAC Declaration, the Glasgow Declaration on the "Fair Deal," and all other outcomes of the international conferences.

In attendance at the closing session of the 19th session of the CBFP MOP were the Honourable Dr Christian Ruck, CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Mr. Michael Moussa Adamo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabon, H.E. Mr. Jules Doret NDONGO, Minister of Forests and Fauna of Cameroon, and the Acting President of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), as well as over 500 representatives of institutions, donors, civil society NGOs, and representatives of research institutions.



Closing speech of CBFP Facilitator, the Honourable Dr Christian Ruck.

### **Reading of the Press Release of the MOP19.**

The ceremony came to a close with the reading of the MOP19's final press release which included recommendations from the CBFP college representatives for better consideration of public environmental policies in order to tackle emerging challenges. Stand: Erstellt von: Seite 2

Closing speech by H.E. Jules Doret NDONGO, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon and Acting President of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC).

The MOP19 was jointly hosted by the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), the Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany and COMIFAC.

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Notes de reunion du collège du secteur privée

### Notes de réunion du collège du secteur privée

Date : 7 juillet 2022  
Heure : 10h00 – 12h15  
Lieu : Salle Okoumé 2, Radisson hôtel, Libreville - GABON  
Présents : voir liste de présence en pièce jointe (environ 30 participants)

### **Tour de table**

Chacun des participants de la réunion s'est présenté. Tous les secteurs étaient présents sauf le secteur minier.

### **Formalisation des chambres – leadership des différents types de secteurs privé**

Nous nous sommes réalisés que le nombre de types de secteurs privé devrait être augmenté pour inclure aussi les PME de la filière forêt-bois et les entreprises de plantations forestières et agro-forestières. En total il y a donc 6 chambres au sein du collège privé du secteur privé. Dans la liste ci-dessous les (potentiels) leaders de chaque chambre sont mentionnés. Chaque leader est responsable de se créer un réseau des entreprises et associations professionnelles de son secteur.

1. « Grandes » entreprises forestières et industrielles du bois – ATIBT (Jacqueline LARDIT)
2. PME artisanales de la filière forêt-bois – EFA Wakanda (Jean de Dieu NDOUTOUME OBAME) ?
3. Entreprises de l'agro-industrie – Olam Gabon (Quentin MEUNIER)
4. Entreprises Touristiques – Volcano Safaries (Praveen MOMAN)
5. Entreprises miniers – MDP Congo (Florent LAGER) ?
6. Entreprises de plantations – xx ?

Changement de co-leaders pour les (préparations des) réunions du Conseil PFBC :

- Agro-industrie : Quentin MEUNIER remplacera Erith NGATCHOU à partir de la prochaine réunion, en précisant qu'il ne représente pas le secteur privé total, une entreprise certifiée RSPO. Il cherchera à mettre d'autres personnes dans le réseau.
- Tourisme : Praveen MOMAN, aussi avec objectif de mobiliser plus d'autres acteurs du secteur privé du tourisme dans le PFBC

Participants pour la réunion du Conseil PFBC du 8 juillet (maximum 4 selon les règles PFBC) : Erith, Praveen, Jean de Dieu et Jacqueline.

### **Relecture recommandations autres Streams**

Les recommandations pour les Streams autres que le Stream 1b sur l'économie du bois n'étaient pas encore disponibles. Praveen avait participé au Stream 2 sur la biodiversité et ses recommandations pour favoriser le développement du tourisme seront normalement reprises dans le document final de ce Stream.

Une discussion a eu lieu sur les recommandations du Stream 1b, notamment pour reformuler et ajouter des certaines recommandations. Jacqueline a précisé que le MINEF du Gabon est leader du Stream 1b, et donc que les suggestions du collège du secteur privé allaient être soumises au MINEF, qui les finaliseraient par la suite.

Une discussion a aussi eu lieu sur la certification forestière, notamment sur deux sujets :

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### Notes de reunion du collège du secteur privée

- Comment/pourquoi la certification forestière ne touche pas à la souveraineté des Etats. En effet, une certification tierce volontaire renforce plutôt la souveraineté des Etats parce qu'elle inclut un respect de la légalité et le référentiel est adapté lorsque la législation dans un Etat change, dans le but de rester conforme ;
- Le processus d'accréditation pour démarrer un bureau d'audit (organisme de certification). Ce processus est long et coûteux. Pour cette raison c'est plus rentable de démarrer un bureau d'audit international dans la région.

## Recommandations générales secteur privé pour le PFBC

Les participants ont exprimé plusieurs recommandations générales pour le PFBC :

- Renforcer le fonctionnement du PFBC et son impact sur les forêts par un suivi de mise en œuvre des recommandations faites dans les déclarations des réunions de partie. Pour cela s'accorder sur des recommandations avec des objectifs claires et des dates butoirs (exemple visa numérique pour développer le tourisme).
- De nombreuses recommandations dans les déclarations des RdP du PFBC ne pourront se mettre en œuvre en impliquant plus fortement les administrations et secteur privé d'autres secteurs (agriculture, mines) et par exemple des ministères de l'économie.
- Des gros investissements sont nécessaires pour améliorer la logistique dans les pays et à travers cela développer l'économie. Sans une amélioration de la logistique (voies de transport, fonctionnement ports) l'économie des pays de l'Afrique centrale ne pourra pas se développer. Toujours pour améliorer la vitesse des approvisionnements d'entrants et l'évacuation de produits, des efforts administratifs sont demandés pour diminuer le nombre et la durée des contrôles sur les routes.
- Une meilleure valorisation des rebus de bois permettra d'augmenter le rendement et la production de produits de bois, sans prélever plus d'arbres en forêt. Les PME peuvent jouer un rôle important dans la transformation des rebus.

## Propositions du collège du secteur privé pour la prochaine Réunion des Parties

- **Sortir du « cloisonnement » entre les différents collèges et faire une vraie approche paysage** en incluant l'ensemble des parties prenantes. Au lieu de faire des Streams parallèles pour différentes thématiques, faire des Streams qui se focalisent sur un ou deux paysages. En préparation de la réunion faire une cartographie de tous les acteurs dans ce(s) paysage(s) et de leurs attentes. PFBC peut aider à fédérer les différents acteurs, et organiser les échanges pour ensemble définir une gestion multi-usage durable, et signaler des incompatibilités. Ensuite définir des objectifs communs claires et une feuille de route avec des rôles et responsabilités pour chaque partie prenante, et des dates butoirs.
- **Organiser une réunion sur tous qui est carbone et PSE, biodiversité**, toujours en incluant l'ensemble des parties prenantes : Qui font quels investissements ? Quelles contributions cela signifie ? Comment partager les retours sur investissement pour l'ensemble des acteurs ?

## **Partenariat des forêts du Bassin du Congo : déclaration de la société civile**



### **DECLARATION**

- **Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres ;**
- **Monsieur le Président de la Commission Economique des Etats de l’Afrique Centrale ;**
- **Monsieur le Facilitateur du Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo ;**
- **Monsieur le Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMIFAC ;**
- **Messieurs les Secrétaires Exécutifs des Agences d’Exécution de la CEEAC ;**
- **Madame l’Ambassadeur, Représentant la Délégation de l’Union Européenne pour le Gabon**
- **et Sao Tome et Principe ;**
- **Madame le Représentant Pays de la Commission de l’Union Africaine ;**
- **Distingués invités, Chers participants et Collègues de la société civile à vos titres, rangs et**
- **qualités.**
- **Vu l’engagement de la société civile pour la protection des forêts du Bassin du Congo pour le bien-être de ses populations et l’humanité toute entière ;**

Nous, membres du Collège de la société civile du PFBC représentés par la CEFDHAC et ses réseaux affiliés (REPAR, REFADD, REJEFAC, REPALEAC, ReRaC, SEEAC, RECEIAC, RECTRAD), et du ROSCEVAC, sommes honorés de délivrer la « Déclaration » sanctionnant la réflexion du Collège Société Civile tenue le 07 Juillet 2022 à l’hôtel Radisson Blu de Libreville en République Gabonaise, en prélude à la note de position commune pré-COP 27, recommandons ce qui suit :

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### Partenariat des forêts du Bassin du Congo : déclaration de la société civile

#### **Aux Etats**

- Accélérer les processus de réforme des Contributions Déterminées au niveau National (CDN) et renforcer l'implication de la société civile et des autres parties prenantes dans leur mise en oeuvre ;
- Renforcer la prise en compte du Genre dans tous les processus de prise de décisions ;
- Reconnaître, respecter, promouvoir et valoriser d'avantage les droits des femmes, des peuples autochtones, des jeunes, des communautés locales, et d'autres groupes vulnérables dans la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers du Bassin du Congo ;
- Impliquer le Collège de la société civile et les autres parties prenantes dans l'élaboration et la mise en oeuvre des programmes d'atténuation et d'adaptation aux changements climatiques;
- Impliquer le Collège de la Société Civile et les autres parties prenantes dans l'élaboration et la mise en oeuvre des programmes d'Atténuation, d'Adaptation de Réduction des Émissions dues à la Déforestation et à la Dégradation des forêts (REDD+) ;
- Impliquer le Collège de la Société Civile dans l'élaboration et la mise en oeuvre des programmes d'alignement des mécanismes des CDN et des Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD).

#### **Au PFBC**

- Se recentrer sur ses missions premières et à son rôle de mobilisation des ressources pour les communautés ;
- Faire un audit du Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo (PFBC) avec l'implication du Collège de la Société Civile comme observateur pour évaluer son fonctionnement et son impact au cours des vingt dernières années ;
- Revisiter l'orientation de la nouvelle politique « zéro déforestation » de l'Union Européenne (UE) ;
- Soutenir le partage d'expériences et des bonnes pratiques aux solutions climatiques naturelles et autres initiatives de compensation ;
- Soutenir la participation des organisations du Collège de la Société Civile aux Conférences des Parties à la Convention Cadre des Nations Unies sur le Changement Climatique (CCNUCC), la Biodiversité (CBD) et sur la Désertification.

#### **Au Collège de la Société Civile**

- Favoriser la gouvernance, la transparence, la participation et l'inclusion de toutes les organisations membres dans tous les processus ;
- Mobiliser des financements en faveur des Organisations de la Société Civile (OSC) ;
- Consolider sa position comme force de proposition et de veille citoyenne

#### **Considérant :**

- L'intérêt manifesté aux nouveaux défis émergents de la région dont la recherche des solutions est portée par la CEEAC, la COMIFAC et le PFBC, qui une fois encore seront débattus en Egypte lors de la 27<sup>e</sup> conférence annuelle de l'ONU sur le climat en novembre 2022, à la suite de la conférence des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de la CEEAC qui se tiendra le 25 Juillet 2022 à Kinshasa;
- Le dernier rapport du GIEC démontrant que nous ne réduisons malheureusement pas suffisamment nos émissions de gaz à effet de serre et que le réchauffement risque de dépasser 3 °C avec des conséquences irréversibles pour l'humanité, ce qui interpelle les Etats parties à présenter leur seconde feuille de route concernant leurs contributions à



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l'atteinte de cet objectif de réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre (GES).

- Le rapport des Nations unies de l'année 2020, l'Afrique s'est réchauffée plus rapidement que la moyenne mondiale, terres et océans confondus, se positionnant ainsi entre la troisième et la huitième année la plus chaude jamais enregistrée sur le continent, d'où la recrudescence observée au niveau des catastrophes naturelles et des érosions dans la sous-région de l'Afrique centrale.
- D'autres calamités telles que l'aggravation de l'insécurité alimentaire, la pauvreté et les déplacements de populations, le phénomène de conflits Hommes-Faune, l'érosion côtière, les éboulements, l'urbanisation anarchique, etc.

Il est donc attendu, face à cette urgence, comme décisions au cours de la prochaine COP27, de renforcer l'ambition des différents pays qui s'efforceront de présenter leurs stratégies de développement bas-carbone à l'horizon 2050, ainsi que leurs plans de réduction de 45 % des gaz à effet de serre.

C'est ici l'occasion de rendre un Hommage mérité aux Chefs d'Etats de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale pour avoir fait de l'accélération des réformes à la CEEAC conduite par son Excellence **Ali BONGO ONDIMBA**, Président de la République Gabonaise et mise en oeuvre par le Président en Exercice de la CEEAC, Son Excellence **Denis SASSOU NGUESSO**, Président de la République du Congo, et actuellement par le Président en Exercice de la Commission de la CEEAC, Son Excellence, **Antoine Félix TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO**, Président de la République Démocratique du Congo et présentement exécutée par son Excellence l'Ambassadeur **Gilberto Da Piedade VERISSIMO**.

A cet effet, nous adressons au Président de la Commission Economique des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale, toute la reconnaissance des organisations du collège de la Société Civile du PFBC pour les décisions n°10 et n°12/CEEAC/CCEG/XIX/21 du 30 juillet 2021, institutionnalisant la CEFDHAC et le ROSCEVAC comme Agence d'Exécution.

Fait à Libreville, le 07 Juillet 2022

Les Participants

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Déclaration de la société civile sur la lutte contre la déforestation et la promotion d'un développement inclusif et durable dans les pays du Bassin du Congo



# Déclaration de la société civile sur la lutte contre la déforestation et la promotion d'un développement inclusif et durable dans les pays du bassin du Congo

Juillet 2022

Nous, représentantes et représentants de la société civile de l'Afrique centrale ayant pris part en présentiel et à distance à la 19ème Réunion des Parties du Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo (PFBC), qui s'est tenue du 5 au 8 juillet 2022 à Libreville, République gabonaise, sous la facilitation de la République fédérale d'Allemagne ;

Réunis le 6 juillet 2022 en marge de cette assise dans le cadre d'un atelier stratégique des organisations de la société civile œuvrant pour la bonne gouvernance des ressources naturelles dans les pays riverains du bassin du Congo ;

Saluons l'engagement des gouvernements, de la société civile, du secteur privé en Afrique centrale et celui des partenaires internationaux techniques et financiers à œuvrer pour la préservation, la gestion durable et la restauration inclusive des écosystèmes forestiers de la sous-région ;

Réitérons notre engagement à œuvrer pour la bonne gouvernance de nos ressources naturelles en vue d'atteindre nos objectifs de développement

nationaux et améliorer les droits et les conditions de vie des communautés locales et des populations autochtones ;

Soutenons les efforts entrepris pour renforcer le dialogue et la coopération entre nos Etats et l'Union européenne ainsi que d'autres gouvernements y compris le Canada, les Etats-Unis, la Norvège et le Royaume-Uni ;

Accueillons favorablement les nouvelles orientations de l'Union européenne (UE) pour lutter contre la déforestation mue par la production et la commercialisation de produits agricoles et les priorités internationales énoncées dans le Pacte vert pour l'Europe ;

Accueillons également avec satisfaction les promesses de financements accrus au profit des forêts et des communautés locales et populations autochtones du bassin du Congo dans la continuité des engagements pris lors de la conférence des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques qui s'est tenue à Glasgow (COP26).

Fort de ces constats, nous recommandons ce qui suit :

## » De placer la bonne gouvernance au cœur des politiques et des pratiques relatives aux forêts

L'UE a reconnu à juste titre porter sa part de responsabilité dans la déforestation, car elle est l'un des principaux importateurs de plusieurs produits de base à risque pour les forêts.

L'UE s'est également engagée à proposer de nouvelles mesures pour protéger et restaurer les forêts en particulier un règlement visant à minimiser le risque de déforestation associée aux commodités agricoles placées sur le marché de l'UE.

L'UE a joué un rôle pionnier en lançant des initiatives environnementales clés telles que le **plan d'action relatif à l'application des réglementations forestières, à la gouvernance et aux échanges commerciaux** (FLEGT) (2003) et ses **accords de partenariat volontaire** (APV) afin de mettre fin à l'exploitation forestière illégale et au commerce qui y est associé.

Plus récemment, l'UE s'est engagée à « verdir » ses partenariats avec les pays tiers dans le cadre de son **Pacte vert pour l'Europe** (2019).

Ainsi, il est fondamental que l'ensemble des nouvelles mesures réglementaires, initiatives et interventions portées par l'UE fassent l'objet d'analyses d'impact et de consultations approfondies afin de s'assurer qu'elles respectent le principe de non-préjudice et de cohérence des politiques au service du développement durable.

Une gouvernance inclusive et multi-acteur fondée sur le respect des droits humains et de l'égalité homme-femme doit être au cœur de la protection des forêts afin que les populations locales et la société civile puissent participer et mettre en œuvre toutes solutions identifiées conjointement dans le cadre des programmes de coopération.

## » De s'assurer que la lutte contre les changements climatiques soit au service des populations forestières et non l'inverse

La protection et la restauration des forêts doivent faire partie intégrante des stratégies d'atténuation des changements climatiques, d'adaptation ainsi que d'une plus grande résilience des populations locales. La lutte contre les changements climatiques ne doit pas être considérée comme une fin en soi, mais un chemin pour mieux contribuer à la réalisation des **objectifs de développement durable** (ODD).

Une telle approche exige d'accroître de manière substantielle les financements publics pour le climat et l'environnement tout en supprimant progressivement les financements en faveur des combustibles fossiles. Mettre les forêts du bassin du Congo sous cloche pour continuer à polluer ailleurs ne permettra pas d'atteindre les objectifs mondiaux de réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre ni de modifier substantiellement les modes de production et de consommation modernes qui sont à l'origine de la crise climatique et de l'effondrement de la biodiversité.

La part équitable des financements promis par les pays donateurs au profit du bassin du Congo et les **engagements de Glasgow pour les forêts et les communautés locales et populations autochtones** doivent être transparents, renforcer les droits et soutenir les moyens de subsistance locaux tout en évitant l'endettement des pays partenaires.

## » D'associer pleinement les pays forestiers tropicaux à la lutte contre la déforestation dans le cadre de partenariats inclusifs et équitables

La **proposition de règlement de l'UE sur les produits exempts de déforestation** a été élaborée sans consultation des pays partenaires visés par cette mesure. Il est urgent d'établir un dialogue inclusif entre l'UE et l'ensemble des parties prenantes dans les pays riverains du bassin du Congo afin que des dispositions et mesures d'accompagnement idoines soient convenues. Cela permettra de garantir que le règlement renforce les réformes destinées à s'attaquer aux causes profondes de la déforestation telles que la mauvaise gouvernance et la faible application des lois. Cela contribuera également à prévenir les risques de fuite indirecte de la déforestation vers des marchés moins exigeants.

Il sera aussi important d'accompagner les pays et les petits agriculteurs pour une transition efficiente vers des systèmes alimentaires justes, grâce à une utilisation durable et équitable des terres et des ressources naturelles.

En outre, l'UE doit mesurer l'impact politique de changements unilatéraux sur les APV et le régime d'autorisation des licences FLEGT dans les pays de mise en œuvre ainsi que sur les réformes législatives et réglementaires en cours concernant les forêts qui sont jugées essentielles par la société civile. En supprimant l'accès préférentiel au bois et aux produits dérivés du bois sous licences FLEGT, l'UE remet en cause les efforts entrepris depuis plus d'une décennie par les pays signataires d'un APV pour lutter contre l'exploitation illégale des forêts, clarifier les régimes fonciers et les droits des populations tributaires des forêts, renforcer leurs capacités institutionnelles et lutter contre la corruption.

Le plan d'action FLEGT requiert des processus multipartites qui suscitent un engagement commun ainsi que des systèmes de suivi, de vérification de la légalité et d'observation indépendante des forêts crédibles et robustes. L'appui continu de l'UE aux APV et à des « APV 2.0 » mieux alignés sur les politiques de développement et climatiques, devrait faire partie intégrante de toute solution visant à enrayer la déforestation dans le bassin du Congo et au niveau mondial.

Les **partenariats forestiers** proposés par la Commission européenne peuvent contribuer à renforcer la gouvernance forestière et foncière, la résilience des écosystèmes et la biodiversité et les moyens de subsistance locaux. Pour les pays qui exportent vers l'UE d'importants volumes de produits de base présentant un risque pour les forêts et les écosystèmes, ces partenariats devraient définir des modalités concrètes de la mise sur pied de chaînes d'approvisionnement exemptes de déforestation.

Pour assurer leur plein succès, ces partenariats forestiers doivent être élaborés et mis en œuvre dans le cadre de processus de concertation similaires à ceux des APV et disposer d'une théorie de changement robuste afin de faciliter le suivi des progrès réalisés et l'évaluation des impacts en particulier sur les communautés locales et les populations autochtones. Aussi, les modalités d'intervention de l'UE doivent prévoir des financements ciblés pour les organisations de la société civile, les communautés locales et les populations autochtones.

## » De placer les populations forestières et les droits humains au cœur de la conservation de la nature

La reconnaissance de l'importance de la protection et de la restauration des forêts en tant que puits de carbone et l'attention portée au bassin du Congo est à saluer.

A travers l'initiative NaturAfrica, la Commission européenne entend protéger les écosystèmes forestiers en Afrique centrale tout en promouvant le rôle des peuples autochtones et communautés locales ainsi que des femmes et des jeunes dans ces efforts de conservation. Sécuriser les droits à la terre de ceux qui en dépendent étroitement pour leurs moyens de subsistance est essentiel pour une meilleure protection de la biodiversité. Ainsi,

il est crucial que NaturAfrica mette en œuvre une approche fondée sur les droits et la réduction de la pauvreté en s'inspirant des leçons tirées des lacunes des programmes de conservation par le passé. Il est également nécessaire d'avoir des indicateurs clairs en matière de réduction de la pauvreté, de respect des droits des populations locales et d'implication de l'ensemble des parties prenantes clés.

Il n'est pas trop tard pour que l'UE veille à ce que ses nouveaux instruments de protection et de restauration des forêts et de la biodiversité soient bénéfiques à la fois pour l'environnement, le climat et le développement humain.

Les organisations et réseaux de la société civile du Bassin du Congo signataires de cette déclaration.



## Annex II: Thematic Streams

### Conditions for successful sustainable land use in the Congo Basin: securing forests and vital areas (focus on forest-mining interactions)

Impulse Paper of CAFI Stream for CBFP MoP19

**Contributors:** Thomas Sembres, Romuald Vaudry and Jim Djontu (EFI), Brendan Schwartz (IIED), Alain Karsenty (CIFOR), Linsey Embinga (CAFI 1 Programme Management Unit in Gabon), Clay Archange Boupoya Mapikou (CENAREST), Michel Ngui Ondo (AGEOS), Richard Eba'a Atyi (CIFOR-ICRAF), James Acworth, Bruno Hugel and Marit Hjort (CAFI)

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## 1. Introduction

Spatial planning (SP) is a technique for organising human activities in a defined geographical area, based on a long-term objective. It is a political vision aimed at strengthening the social cohesion of this space at different scales. This territorial organisation defines zones and sub-territories on a smaller scale and sets objectives for each of them in accordance with the overall TA long-term objective (Guizol et al., 2022).

Over the last few years, however, due to the awareness of the climate crisis and the limitation of resources (natural resources, arable land, etc.), the practice of spatial planning is increasingly characterised by the inclusion of environmental sustainability objectives in traditional strategic planning (Stürck et al., 2018).

Besides traditional themes such as resource exploitation, economic development and the reduction of planning imbalances, modern TA objectives thus often include 'environmental conservation, limiting urban expansion, reducing transport costs, preventing current and future land use conflicts, and reducing exposure to pollutants (including greenhouse gases)' (Acworth and Douard, 2021).

Nevertheless, it is important to stress that, globally, "TA is not just about rural planning or environmental protection, but prioritises the distribution of people, activities, facilities and communications across the country. Although environmental protection may be an element of this planning, it is only one objective among others" (Acworth and Douard, 2021). In short, TA is a process of regulating land use by a central authority (though at various levels of territorial governance), usually with the aim of promoting better social and environmental outcomes and more efficient use of resources.

Today, Central Africa, a region with forests that have long been spared, is increasingly affected by deforestation (FAO, 2020). In fact, in Central Africa, the drivers of deforestation are getting out of control: the population is growing very rapidly, cities are spreading out, leading to a growing demand for agricultural or forest products (wood energy, timber) on domestic markets, and new road networks are facilitating the exploitation of forest resources for wood, but especially to access land and develop agriculture (Marien et al., 2013). A new organisation of spaces would be necessary to produce food, wood, energy and fibres at the same time as preserving the ecosystems that provide the water and regulation services essential to the resilience of productive spaces and the well-being of populations (Nyström et al., 2019). Spatial planning is one of the key instruments to achieve this.

Successful planning involves a balanced mix of context analysis (existing, opportunities and constraints), public consultation, pragmatic planning and the selection of financially and politically feasible implementation strategies.

Successful planning involves a balanced mix of context analysis (existing, opportunities and constraints), public consultation, pragmatic planning and the selection of financially and politically feasible implementation strategies.

The authors of the paper propose a number of conditions for success in meeting these challenges. They also present recommendations targeted at members and partners of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), highlighting concrete steps to facilitate the acceleration of implementation of both the COMIFAC ([Yaoundé Declaration, 1999](#)) and Glasgow ([Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, 2021](#)) declarations.

## 2. The challenges

### Challenge 1: Lack of consensus on the purpose, processes and tools of spatial planning

The scope and objectives of spatial planning processes are hotly debated, with differing opinions on the articulation between the different planning tools (schemes, zoning and plans).

Spatial planning is about planning the distribution of infrastructure, providing public services, building

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interconnectivity between supply areas and markets, and correcting socio-economic imbalances between regions. However, TA also goes beyond the historical and rather reductive sectoral zoning exercises that have predominated until fairly recently in Central Africa, whether it be forestry, mining, agricultural or conservation (protected areas) zoning. It is basically a multi-sectoral and spatialised planning of development (or sustainable development if environmental concerns are adequately integrated).

The difficulty in reaching consensus on the appropriate balance between (i) strategic planning at the central level and (ii) decentralised decision-making on land use is not surprising: government staff in charge of spatial planning issues as well as their possible international technical advisors have been trained in different countries, often European or Western, each with divergent and evolving policies on spatial planning systems, more or less decentralised (OECD, 2017; Broaddus, 2020). TA actors at central and decentralised levels also have very different conceptions of the scope of the TA exercise at the central level, having to focus a priori on the main strategic priorities and resisting the temptation to redefine land use too precisely at the local level, at the risk of neglecting local realities and creating conflicts.

This note is limited to issues concerning the use of rural space and ways of allocating and securing land for multiple uses, including the impact of land-use planning processes on forest areas. However, it is essential to address these substantive issues in order to move forward in an integrated way in the field of spatial planning.

#### Challenge 2: Lack of clarity in the articulation between spatial and operational planning linked to weak inter-sectoral coordination

when it comes to the subject of planning, at whatever geographical level, there is a lack of understanding among stakeholders of the relationship between (i) short-term operational planning and (ii) spatial planning as a projection of land and investment needs in the medium term.

Operational planning has rightly been widely prioritised by public policies in recent decades. There are thus National Development Plans in several countries of the sub-region, and development plans for the various levels of decentralised territorial authorities (DTAs) in those that have started decentralisation. However, there is a clear imbalance with regard to land use planning and the corresponding spatial planning documents, often to the detriment of the sustainable management of natural resources.

Although some countries have started to prepare spatial planning schemes at national and regional (Cameroon) / provincial (DRC) level, they are not concluded, and often give insufficiently clear or detailed policy guidance for the sustainable development of specific lands or sectors. They need to be clearer in terms of policies and principles to guide local planning, but avoid being too spatially specific - i.e., avoid defining land allocation centrally. All land allocations should only be made on the basis of local land use plans, ESIA's and FPICs obtained from local stakeholders. In addition, they have not effectively resolved current or foreseeable conflicts between sectoral policies and the level of ambition proposed by different ministries in the limited national space through a process of arbitration between state agencies and with other stakeholders. This is linked, among other things, to the historical weakness of cross-sectoral coordination in some countries: ministerial responsibilities for these issues are often separated and there are few suitable or functional opportunities for dialogue, or when they do exist, they lack the necessary functional arbitration mechanisms (i.e., well-defined in terms of process and level of responsibility) for reconciling or definitively deciding between competing interests.

For example, in the Republic of Congo, the National Spatial Planning and Development Council (CNADT) as well as the Departmental Spatial Planning Commissions (CDAT) were created (Decrees No. 2017-226 and 228 of 7 July 2017). However, since its establishment, the CNADT has never met annually as provided for in its article 8, while only the CDATs of Brazzaville, Kouilou and Likouala organised the inaugural meeting of their respective commissions between 2018 and 2019.

In Cameroon, the Land Use Planning Law (2011) proposes a National Council for Land Planning,



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which has yet to be established. The law is often silent on national or decentralised mechanisms for arbitration between different land use sectors.

This lack of inter-sectoral coordination at the national level, but especially at the local level, is particularly acute when it comes to developing or updating (i) legislative and regulatory texts and (ii) methodological guides dedicated to the development of various sub-national planning documents (spatial or operational).

#### Challenge 3: Decentralised Territorial Authorities (DTAs) with weak capacities, linked to a lack of effective decentralisation

In theory, decentralisation processes have been initiated in the majority of countries in the sub-region, sometimes for more than 20 years. In practice, these processes are still far from living up to their stated ambitions. This shows that there is still a strong tension between the principle of subsidiarity<sup>1</sup> and a technocratic tradition that is predominantly centralised. In practice, most of the subregion's local authorities have little or no decision-making power over the management of their areas, and/or the financial and human resources needed to exercise the competences that have been officially transferred to them, starting with the drafting of spatial planning documents that concern them.

Similarly, access to forward-looking planning tools (modelling, spatial projections, etc.) and the skills needed to make them operational are limited. Finally, in the majority of Congo Basin countries, since local level documents must be in conformity with higher level documents, the question arises of (i) the room for manoeuvre that can effectively be exercised at the smallest geographical level, and (ii) the enforceability of these documents against third parties. Decentralisation is thus at the heart of the debate on the implementation approach to spatial planning, and of the capacity-building efforts needed to establish a real culture and practice of TA at local level.

#### Challenge 4: Local stakeholders not well informed and involved in the actual planning choices

Stakeholder participation in territorial planning processes, when it exists, is rarely effective and often late, at a stage of the process when the real strategic choices have already been made, as most legal frameworks for spatial planning define a top-down process where National and Regional Plans at the higher-level orient and inform the content of lower-level plans.

Furthermore, there are often significant information asymmetries between stakeholders, between institutional actors or organised company representatives, on the one hand, and various local actors on the other. In addition to maps of land use, land suitability, mineral deposits and other natural resources, another type of information tends to be lacking: (i) realistic projections of land needs over the next 30+ years (ii) socio-economic data on the real costs and benefits of different land use.

Options, by type of stakeholder. The impacts of planning choices in terms of employment or territorial food autonomy remain little considered compared to other economic or financial considerations. Information asymmetries and the lack of effective participation of local actors, especially the most marginalised groups (women, young people, indigenous peoples), then become the breeding ground for future conflicts and the lack of local support for the decisions taken, which are perceived at best as technocratic and at worst as opaque and unfair.

#### Challenge 5: Inadequate legal categories and procedures for implementing permanent forest heritage and securing rural space for indigenous peoples and local communities (PACL)

The objectives of land-use planning, and in particular the process of macro-/meso-/ micro-zoning, vary considerably between stakeholders, especially in highly forested countries. For LACs living in rural areas, often very close to forests, securing communal land (as distinct from private property) for their own present and future use remains almost impossible in most countries of the Congo Basin, apart from those - including the DRC - that have made the courageous decision to give the right to

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<sup>1</sup> Principle whereby a central authority can only perform those tasks that cannot be performed at the lower level.

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manage these areas to customary owners through Forest Concessions for Local Communities (CFCL)<sup>2</sup>.

For states and their technical and financial partners (TFPs) wishing to support the zoning and securing of forests for sustainable use, the establishment of a permanent forest estate or patrimony (PFP)<sup>3</sup> is a central point in land-use planning processes. Because of the absence - in some countries of the Congo Basin, such as the DRC - of a PFP category under land allocation in the forest law, the legislation does not allow for the allocation of land to a dominant forest use (as opposed to the allocation of rights to *legal or physical persons*) over a significant area of the territory, and thus to meet an ecological purpose (Karsenty, 2018).

Second, the enforcement of a PFP land use category, where it exists, is often hampered by a lack of adequate legal and administrative procedures to ensure the rule of law and the legitimate enforcement of statutes, including classification, registration, recording and registration of properties in the land registry.

#### Challenge 6: Impact of extractive industries (mining and hydrocarbons) on deforestation and biodiversity

Although its current footprint as a direct driver of deforestation and degradation still seems minimal compared to others<sup>4</sup>, extractive industries continue to present a major social and environmental risk in the Congo Basin, despite their central role in terms of GDP and foreign exchange earnings. In addressing this challenge, it is fundamental to distinguish between industrial/semi-mechanised mining, on the one hand, and artisanal mining on the other.

Although artisanal mining in the Congo Basin is rarely practised in a sustainable manner, its impact on deforestation remains limited, given its small scale and the limited amount of infrastructure built. Negative impacts are generally related to working conditions (including child labour), unfair remuneration practices (sometimes by mine owners, other times by value chain actors such as aggregators, traders and refiners), the use of toxic chemicals which pose problems for both human health and the environment (including waterways), gender-based violence and (sometimes violent) government repression of artisanal miners. Illegal mining and the large profits made by the ringleaders also lead to local conflicts between rival factions and make large areas too dangerous for state representatives such as protected area managers and their international partners to operate in safety.

On the other hand, 'semi-mechanised' and large-scale mining, oil extraction and related infrastructure (factories/refineries, railways, ports, etc.) and the impacts induced by the installation of major projects present greater risks for the forests of the Congo Basin. This is despite the greater resources and organisational capacities of the entities involved, and the significant risks in terms of the image (at least for the most exposed actors).

Without effective control, mining activities at any scale impact on wildlife through hunting - a means

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<sup>2</sup> Legal basis for community forests is established by Article 22 of the 2002 Forestry Code, and by Decree No. 14/018 of 2 August 2014 and Order No. 025 of 9 February 2016 establishing the process for the allocation and management of CFCLs, respectively.

<https://rdc.geocfcl.org/>

<sup>3</sup> The PFP concept "should not be confused with an integral conservation area, since its objective is not to prevent human activities, only to restrict activities resulting in a loss of forest cover. It is therefore possible to achieve sustainable use of the forests, whether through conservation (including ecotourism activities and REDD+ projects) or through sustainable exploitation of timber and non-timber products. [...] Nor should we fall into the illusion of 'actualisation'. It is neither possible nor desirable to prevent the encroachment of small-scale agriculture or charcoal mining into the PFP, which should instead be accompanied by sustainable practices. Similarly, it is unrealistic to imagine preventing mining and oil exploration [...], which is a source of very high short-term profits. On the other hand, the PFP could make it possible to require in-depth impact studies that take full account of the short-, medium- and long-term impact on the forest, and not only mitigation of impacts but also ecological compensation (restoration of ecosystems that have been degraded elsewhere) and substantial financial compensation. These financial compensations would be used to feed the national REDD+ Fund to finance REDD+ activities throughout the country." (DRC National REDD+ Strategy. MEDD, 2013)

<sup>4</sup> Tyukavina, A., Hansen, M. C., Potapov, P. Parker, D., Okpa, C., Stehman, S. V., Kommareddy, I., Turubanova, S. (2018). Congo Basin forest loss dominated by increasing smallholder clearing. *Sci. Adv.* 4, eaat2993 (2018). <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.aat2993>

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of providing meat to miners' camps in remote forest areas. The integration of the mining sector into overall development plans, the pooling of infrastructure related to mining projects, and the creation of no-go zones for mining are avenues for policy makers to pursue.

Currently, the major problem with most mining laws is that they allow mining exploration almost anywhere in a country and that exploration takes place before or without an environmental impact assessment and stakeholder consultation process (which may or may not include a Free, Prior and Informed Consent - FPIC - procedure), as well as without taking into account pre-existing land uses and outside the bounds of any land-use plan. Semi-mechanised' mining often creates impacts as significant as industrial mining, but without the imposition of equivalent socio-environmental safeguards.

No country in the Congo Basin currently requires FPIC in its mining legislation, although CAR has ratified ILO 169, which requires FPIC for mining in indigenous territories, and the ECOWAS regional mining code requires all member states to implement FPIC in their national mining legislation. The lack of meaningful consultation with communities surrounding mining projects is often the source of social tensions.

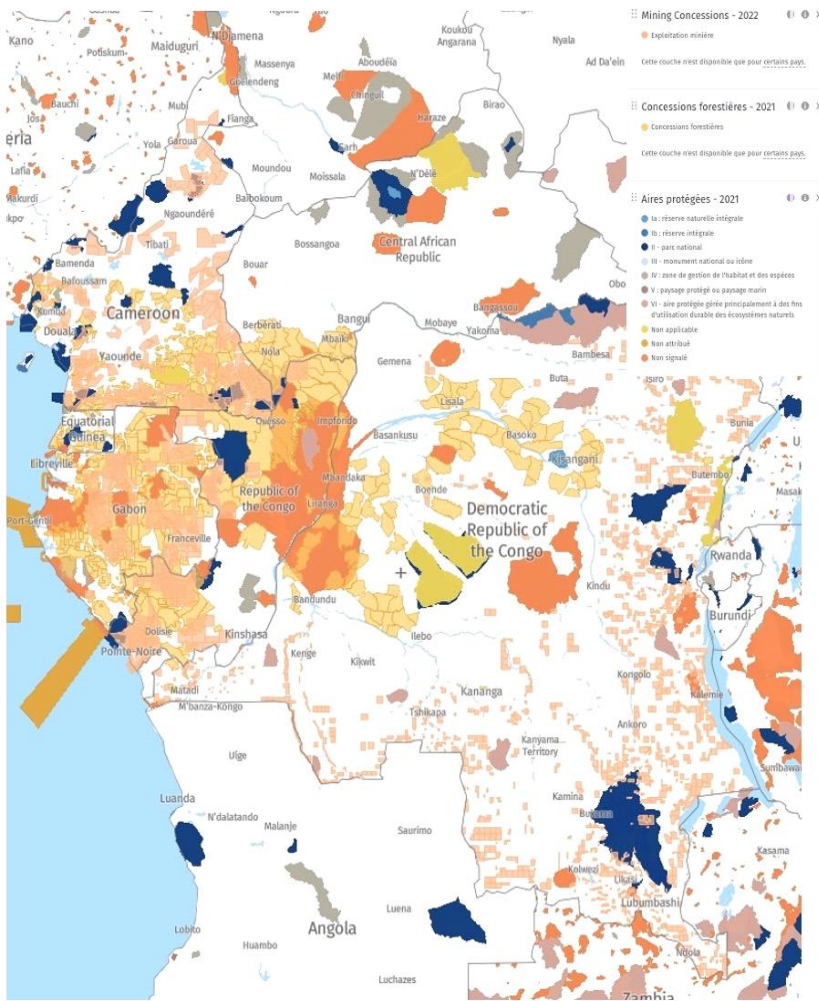
This is in stark contrast to the licensing of other large-scale investments in commodities at risk of deforestation, such as industrial palms, rubber and soy plantations, large infrastructure, logging, etc. (procedures applied to varying degrees). The laws of the Congo Basin countries only allow logging activities to be carried out within a published auctioned permit area, and a large plantation to be developed only after a concession or long lease and preliminary environmental studies have been completed. In contrast, in the mining sector, an operator can, in many cases, simply apply for a permit within a given area and then start exploration activities.

Numerous industrial mining permits granted in recent decades overlay existing rights and allocations in forest areas and several countries in the Congo Basin provide for oil exploitation within protected areas.

This makes exploration and mining the default land-use sector by law. Although limited in practice in some countries such as Cameroon, there is nothing to prevent its rapid expansion into forest areas. While governments can in theory reject mining licences on environmental grounds, this remains very difficult to do in practice, not least because of the threat of international arbitration.

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Figure 2: Map of Mining Permits overlaid on Protected Areas and Forest Concessions in the Congo Basin



Source: Global Forest Watch: <https://gfw.global/3nx8EXS>

**3. Conditions for Success**

An adequate and efficient response to the challenges presented will depend on a number of important conditions for success being in place.

**Condition for Success 1: Create formalised spaces for dialogue and coordination to standardise spatial planning concepts and principles.**

These dialogue frameworks can help to clarify terminology as well as the objectives, scope, horizontal (between sectors) and vertical (between central and decentralised levels of government) articulation and enforceability of land use planning instruments. They can also provide an opportunity to share experiences on the development and effective implementation of land-use plans, to learn from successes and failures.

According to the most progressive conceptions of decentralisation, national and regional plans should have a strategic scope and provide guidelines for the future development of the area, but should avoid leading to spatially too precise allocations, thus leaving it to local authorities to carry out fine spatial planning.

**Condition for Success 2: Break out of sectoral logic**

Land use planning and sectoral zoning cannot be carried out in isolation. The various sectoral land-

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using ministries need to spatially project their strategic planning while ensuring coherence with other sectors: Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock must plan to ensure national food security in the context of a rapidly growing national population, as well as to satisfy a growing demand for agricultural products for international markets, all reinforced by a strong evolution of national and international food habits; Ministries of Mines are promoting mining as a key sector to stimulate economic growth; Ministries of Forestry are seeking to meet national and international demand for forest products; and more recently, Ministries of Environment are seeking to protect biodiversity and maintain or increase forest carbon stocks to meet global climate change mitigation ambitions.

Land-use planning in this complex environment necessarily requires trade-offs where optimisation of the costs and net benefits of different land-use scenarios must be achieved through careful and continuous arbitration between competing interests.

As a cross-cutting theme by excellence, spatial planning cannot remain the prerogative of a single ministry or central authority without sharing responsibilities in this area and arbitration between them. In order to overcome the sectoral approaches that are still very prevalent in the sub-region (approaches that are often maintained by a lack of coordination between technical and financial partners), it would be wise to rely on particularly structuring activities, starting with (i) modelling of medium- and long-term land demand to meet local and national socio-economic needs, in order to guide trade-offs between sectoral, national and international objectives, which are often in competition with each other; (ii) modelling of the positive and negative impacts of various development scenarios of the structuring communication axes, in terms of enhancing the country's productive potential, developing the population and preserving natural resources (which in turn enable the preservation of the country's productive capital); (iii) recognition by the international community that a process of optimising land and resource use in favour of the preservation of global public goods will only be translated into action if the real opportunity costs of restricting the uses of the most valuable forests (based on a simplification of the emerging concepts of High Conservation Value<sup>5</sup> and the High Carbon Stock Approach<sup>6</sup> are adequately compensated. The notion of subsidies as an incentive policy tool is very well understood in other countries, but not yet realised in Central Africa - an issue that needs to be addressed urgently.

Once these prerequisites have been achieved, the legislative and regulatory texts dedicated to spatial planning, development (sectoral and multisectoral) and decentralisation need to be made coherent in order to translate these basic principles into action and to achieve an optimisation of the allocation of space in response to global issues, accompanied by appropriate incentives in this respect. Ideally carried out under the aegis of the primatures or high-level (decision-making) bodies with a multi-sectoral mandate to facilitate any necessary arbitration, it is then necessary to complete and/or update the panoply of methodological guides dedicated to the elaboration of the various national framework documents.

In order to facilitate this substantive multi-sectoral work, it would also be necessary to create adequate spaces for dialogue and coordination at national level, but especially at decentralised level, and/or to make functional the possible spaces for dialogue that are already foreseen but that currently only exist in theory.

### Condition for Success 3: Visibility and enforceability against third parties of spatial planning documents drawn up at the level of decentralised territorial authorities

spatial planning efforts at decentralised levels could be further encouraged in two complementary ways: (1) by guaranteeing the enforceability against third parties of completed local development plans (i.e. duly validated according to the laws of the country) and (2) by offering national visibility on a national information platform listing all the territories with genuine spatial planning (information that is increasingly valued by certain economic actors wishing to locate their supply chains in territories benefiting from good governance). The opposability to third parties would allow, for example, a local

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<sup>5</sup> HCV Network. <https://www.hcvnetwork.org/who-we-are>

<sup>6</sup> "High Carbon Stock Approach - <https://highcarbonstock.org/>

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authority to enforce the local development plan of its territory in the face of possible projects contrary to local priorities (including possible land grabbing phenomena) by external investors. In order to inform the various stakeholders in a transparent manner, it would therefore be necessary to rely on institutional and public mapping platforms, such as the Common Mapping Platform developed in Cameroon by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Land Management (MINEPAT) to include layers dedicated to land use planning and the corresponding land allocations.

In fact, the recent experience of developing a methodological guide for the elaboration of local land use and sustainable development plans (PLADDT) in Cameroon has shown that the State is not necessarily yet ready to make these plans enforceable against third parties. The Ministries concerned insist that the allocations proposed in the PLADDT are not binding and will only become enforceable after (i) a classification process as defined in the sectoral legal texts; and then (ii) their registration in the land register. This represents a major obstacle to local, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder land-use planning serving as a mechanism for negotiating and securing forests and other lands for specific uses in the short to medium term. In Cameroon, DRC and other countries, national and international civil society has called on the government to create a single cadastre for the conservation of all titles, regardless of sector. This would oblige the entity in charge of the cadastre to identify conflicts and overlaps of use and to resolve them before granting a title.

#### Condition for Success 4: Build Capacity for Participatory Spatial Planning

In a context of demographic and economic growth, on the one hand, and scarcity of natural and land resources, on the other hand, the needs in spatial planning are immense and growing. In this context, it is important to strengthen the capacities of specialised administrations, particularly at the level of decentralised and deconcentrated administrations. It is essential and possible to make spatial planning less technocratic and more accessible by mobilising local capacities, particularly in terms of facilitating multi-sectoral and multi-actor dialogues and analysing local socio-economic data prior to planning choices.

A new profession of "Local Facilitator in Land Use Planning" needs to be designed, developed, supported and deployed in territories where land conflicts and tensions over resources are most acute. These local facilitators can now be rapidly equipped with accessible and free tools that promote the sharing and analysis of useful information and the participation of stakeholders - such as, for example, the [Land-use Planner](#) tool made available free of charge by the European Forest Institute and used in various participatory planning processes in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo.

#### Condition for Success 5: Clarification of the dualism between customary and written land tenure

Effective land use planning requires clarification of the dualism between the different customary and written land tenure systems. Such a clarification can be made in several ways: (i) either by choosing one right-holder and excluding the other, following the logic of the land title/individual property (ii) or by recognising superimposed, potentially non-competing rights, and organising the inclusive management of these rights through the lens of the landscape and not sectoral governance (iii) or by recognising that each village owns its traditional land, without any prior formality being necessary. The collective land title would attest to the recognition of collective ownership of the community over inalienable land. The acquisition of rights, licences or permits (for land, resource extraction, and the creation of protected areas) would require the prior consultation and consent of the communities as provided for by good practice and international law.

The latter approach requires legal reforms to enable recognition of customary land in cadastral systems, once adequate cadastral systems are in place. Once this condition is met, in a context of significant social change and development, a consensual land tenure system is essential to curb legal constraints on customary land. Participatory mapping of customary use areas and management based on support and mediation platforms (customary land commissions, which should be developed and consolidated) appear to be key instruments in this respect.

This delimitation and recognition of customary lands must also take into account the specificities of

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indigenous peoples in their way of life and needs and the commitments made by States at the regional/international level. At present, several legal systems in Central Africa currently only recognise property, concessions or use rights regimes, and indigenous peoples are unlikely to be granted property rights to protect their traditional lands. It will therefore be important to establish procedures in these national legal systems to recognise indigenous peoples' rights to resource use and land ownership. In some cases, community forest concessions will be the most appropriate solution; in others, it will be expanded use rights (see the concept of resource use rights) superimposed on other compatible rights (in concessions and protected areas).

#### Condition for Success 6: Implementation of legal procedures for the enforcement of a permanent forest heritage (PFP) for land use planning and introduction of mechanisms for securing vital areas for indigenous peoples and local communities (PACL)

The existence of a land-use planning category of PFP in the relevant national legislation is crucial for the sustainable use of forest land. Similarly, a legal category for allocating land for the exclusive collective use of local communities is also needed. Karsenty and Vermeulen (2016) propose an approach for forest concessions, which can be used for some Category 5 (protected landscapes) and 6 (protected areas with sustainable use of natural resources) protected areas.

Karsenty (forthcoming) presents the following classic steps used in the top-down macro/meso/micro forest zoning process, applied in several Congo Basin countries in the past for the establishment of a PFP. At each level the proposals made should be subject to consultation and refinement. At the local level, in accordance with international and national human rights law, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) must be obtained before the official publication. Once the zoning is done, registration, legally establishing the PFP, is carried out through acts based on legal procedures and international standards (such as FPIC), in order to establish a forestry cadastre. However, the principle of FPIC is often not respected as few but the boldest Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) can in practice reject such a proposal from higher levels of government. Finally, the allocation of management/conservation units to individuals or corporate bodies through competitive bidding or by mutual agreement, depending on the statutes, thus producing concession titles, etc., is often not respected.

In this context, in order to establish the PFP-in-law, it is essential to ensure the respect of the rule of law and the implementation of legal and administrative procedures to establish the categories of land use planning adapted to the country, in particular for the classification, registration, recording of properties in the land registry. Although the overall spatial planning process is not limited to its legal dimension, spatial plans need to be legally translated and established in law according to established procedures. Therefore, the systematisation of procedures should be a priority (e.g., the classification of forest management units, not completed in Cameroon and not undertaken in other countries of the sub-region). These procedures imply, inter alia, consultation with resource users and the possibility of opposition, etc. A cadastre without procedures does not allow the rule of law.

As part of the steps described above, it is important to conduct participatory and multi-sectoral processes, tailored to national and local contexts, to define, identify and integrate the concept of *high-value forests* (an important basis for defining the PFP) into the legal regimes of the forest, land, agricultural and land-use sectors, as stipulated in the Letter of Intent signed between DRC and the Central African Forest Initiative in November 2021.

Finally, in order to successfully implement the steps described above, the needs and preferences of local communities as well as investors with regard to securing land for non-forest uses, including agricultural development, must be taken into account.

Below is an example of the process of anchoring Gabon's national land use plans in the national definitions of high conservation value (HCV) and high carbon stock (HCS) forests. In this context, it should be recalled that although there may be an emerging international consensus encouraging Congo Basin countries to identify and preserve their high-value forests (notably HCV/HSC forests), it is up to national governments and local people to decide which forests to protect, use for sustainable production, or convert to other uses, taking into account available international

## Annex II: Thematic Streams

### Stream 1a: Impulse Paper

incentives. Gabon has chosen this approach, including with the support of CAFI and a performance-based payment mechanism for forest conservation; however, other countries in the sub-region may not be able to adopt such an approach without substantial economic incentives, technical support and capacity transfer.

The experience of Gabon: A National Land Use Plan anchored in the national definitions of HCV and HSC forests

With 88% forest cover, Gabon has a special status as a high forest density, low deforestation country, second in the world with regard to forest cover relative to national territory. The Gabonese government has played a leading role and has taken strong measures to protect its forests, such as the revision of its forestry code promulgated in 2001, which obliges forestry companies to subject their concessions to sustainable management.

Secondly, through its Letter of Intent signed with the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), Gabon committed to "develop and adopt national guidelines and definitions to ensure that High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests are not converted to other uses, in line with emerging international consensus and best practice". To meet these commitments, the National Land Use Plan (currently being developed, supported through a CAFI-funded programme) "will be based on the principles of non-conversion of HSC and HVC forests, limited and carbon-neutral conversions of non-HSC/HVC forests, reduction of areas under forest concessions, reduction of emissions from logging and rural activities, and respect for customary land rights". Thus, the National Land Use Plan should 'allow the land to be allocated to different uses in an optimal manner, excluding as much as possible primary, HCV and HSC forests' (AFD and CNC/Gabon, 2018).

Finally, adopted by the Council of Ministers in November 2020, Gabon's National Directive on oil palm cultivation should serve as a guide for other crops in determining HCV/HSC areas. Thus, the country aims to ensure that agricultural expansion and mining developments avoid conversions of HCV and HSC areas as much as possible.

### Condition for success 7: Establishment of no-go zones and other measures to limit the impact of mining on forests

As long as it remains difficult for states to refuse to grant mining licences on the basis of environmental risks, it is recommended that - in the short term - the creation of 'no-go' zones for mining is ensured where there are intact forest landscapes and areas essential for rural livelihoods. In Cameroon, Articles 126-128 of the Mining Code<sup>7</sup> allow the government to do this, but implementation remains limited. In Gabon, Articles 124-126 of the Mining Code<sup>8</sup> give the government broad authority to prohibit mining, and the same is true of Article 6 of the Mining Code in the DRC<sup>9</sup>. Based on the results of land-use planning, some areas could be (re)opened for mining exploration/extraction and/or related infrastructure.

Actually, no country in the Congo Basin requires the payment of a carbon tax on deforestation in the mining sector, although most mining companies are willing to pay it. In this regulatory vacuum, some mining companies offer environmental offsets to compensate for the deforestation caused by their projects by preserving other forest areas. It should be noted that the compensation offered by companies, while not able to replace what has been destroyed on a scale large enough to meet the ambitions of forest countries, can serve as an incentive to minimise the damage caused by mining companies. Furthermore, according to recent studies (Bidaud et al., 2017), environmental offsets in forest areas may negatively affect the land rights of rural communities and the effectiveness of environmental offsets is questioned by academic studies (Kujala et al., 2022; Zu Ermgassen 2019; May et al. 2017).

Secondly, in the medium term, new legal reforms and tools (will be needed to): (i) introduce FPIC as

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.droit-afrique.com/uploads/Cameroun-Code-minier-2016.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <http://images.policy.mofcom.gov.cn/flaw/201007/d0c8da7a-194f-49ba-a012-b2411cbf8c8e.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.mines-rdc.cd/fr/wp-content/uploads/Code%20minier/J.O.\\_n%C2%B0\\_spe%C3%ACcial\\_du\\_28\\_mars\\_2018\\_CODE\\_MINIER%20DE%20LA%20RDC.PDF](https://www.mines-rdc.cd/fr/wp-content/uploads/Code%20minier/J.O._n%C2%B0_spe%C3%ACcial_du_28_mars_2018_CODE_MINIER%20DE%20LA%20RDC.PDF)



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standard practice in the mining sector prior to the granting of exploration licences in accordance with international law and state obligations; (ii) Ensure strong recognition of collective property rights in rural and forest areas (as in the Amazon, where the rate of deforestation has fallen as a result of communities' legal recognition of land and forests (Baragwanath and Bay, 2020)) so that communities can claim their land as their own in FPIC processes; (iii) deny companies conducting mineral exploration under a 'legitimate expectation' to develop mineral deposits, regardless of the social/environmental cost; (iv) explicitly prohibit mining in certain areas rather than the status quo of giving governments discretion to declare certain areas off limits; (v) better supervision of an investment in good practice in the artisanal sector and more repressive measures against destructive 'semi-mechanised' mining; (vi) promotes the pooling of infrastructure related to mining projects (roads, paths, ports, power sources, etc.) to reduce the cumulative burden of the extractive sector on forests and community rights; and (vii) establish carbon taxes and other environmental compensation mechanisms as incentives for mining operators, recognising that these can be better framed in environmental than mining codes.

Finally, the introduction of the principles of green mining practices or *Forest Smart*<sup>10</sup> is essential. In Cameroon, the ACP-EU Minerals for Development Programme is developing a roadmap for the green development of the mining sector, for presentation to the Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINIMIDT).

## 4. Recommendations

The following recommendations are made on the basis of the challenges and requirements for success presented, with a view to enabling CBFP members and partners to take concrete steps to facilitate the acceleration of implementation of the COMIFAC ([Yaoundé Declaration, 1999](#)) and Glasgow ([Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, 2021](#)).

1. **Create spaces for formalised dialogue and coordination** to clarify the purpose, scope, horizontal (between sectors) and vertical (between levels of government - central and decentralised) articulation and enforceability of land use planning instruments, and to share experiences on the preparation and implementation of land-use plans, to learn from successes and failures.
2. **Integrate a category of permanent forest heritage under land-use planning into the national legislation of all countries in the Congo Basin**, and implement adequate legal procedures to constitute the permanent forest heritage-in-law and to achieve the constitution of cadastres constituting the rule of law, including classification.
3. **Develop a definition of high-value forests in the context of national participatory processes, followed by the systematic integration of these areas into land-use plans and policies.** The adoption of these definitions and their subsequent integration by TBCs require negotiation of incentives between international entities, the national government and TBCs.
4. **Carry out land reform, followed by the recognition of customary rights in official land-use planning processes where** adequate cadastral systems exist, or the recognition and inclusive management of overlapping rights.
5. **Adopt a decentralised approach to the development of local spatial plans**, guided by national policies and strategies, a national plan and regional plans with sufficiently clear priorities adapted to the conditions of each region; good technical tools and analysis; and expert facilitation, with a view to reaching a consensus on the sustainable development strategy at the level of each jurisdiction. In conclusion, spatial planning at the national level should be "strategic" in scope but avoid leading to spatially too precise allocations - final decisions on the delimitation of specific uses should be taken with the parties affected by the allocations.

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<sup>10</sup> *Forest Smart Mining* is based on a development approach that recognises the importance of forests in supporting growth [..., and which] is sustainable and inclusive, [...] stresses that forests are part of a wider landscape and that changes in forest cover affect other land uses as well as the people living in that landscape. It transforms the way sectors operate by identifying opportunities for mutual benefit and creating practical solutions that can be implemented at scale" (IBRD/World Bank, 2019).

6. **Launch a programme (nationally or regionally) to support local land-use facilitators** in regions where land tensions are greatest, together with the specialised decentralised administrations.
7. **Create 'no mining' zones where** there are intact forest landscapes and areas essential for rural livelihoods.
8. **Identify and harmonise sustainable sources of funding** that will facilitate the conservation of high value forests while facilitating sustainable economic development.

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## Annex II: Thematic Streams

### Stream 1a: Impulse Paper

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**Recommendations of Stream 1a  
at the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership  
5-8 July 2022  
Libreville, Gabon**

## Stream 1a: Summary of challenges and conditions for successful sustainable land use

Land use planning is seen by several Global Conventions as a basic tool to ensure sustainable development goals (poverty reduction, zero hunger, fight against climate change, responsible consumption and production, biodiversity protection, and reduction of inequalities, among others). These conventions, coupled with national policies, highlight the need for a better planning of sustainable development.

Most of the countries in the sub-region have drafted and adopted new Land Use Acts and initiated a set of land zoning and planning tools to optimise land use. Some are strongly focused on securing high-value forests, while others are much less so.

The Stream 1a Working Group was tasked with identifying the challenges of effective land use planning, and the conditions for success, in the context of a high forest cover region.

The following challenges were identified, although some countries in the Congo Basin have already addressed some of them:

1. *Lack of consensus on TA purpose, processes and tools in some countries, compared to others;*
2. *Lack of clarity regarding the articulation between national development strategies; sectoral plans;*
2. *spatial and operational planning; and urban and rural planning.*
3. *Decentralised Territorial Authorities (DTAs) with weak capacities, linked to a lack of effective decentralisation in the sub-region.*
5. *Local actors with little information and involvement in the actual planning choices in some countries,*
6. *but with strong involvement in others.*
6. *Inadequate legal categories and procedures for enforcing permanent forest heritage and securing rural*
7. *areas for local communities and vulnerable groups*
7. *The current and projected impact of extractive industries (mining and hydrocarbons) and structural*
8. *investments on deforestation and biodiversity.*

In order to meet these challenges, harmonisation of concepts, tools and practice of land-use planning between actors, and capacity building is needed at national and sub-regional level. It is recommended to:

**A. Create formalised spaces for dialogue and coordination of spatial planning** in order to identify, review and revitalise the frameworks for consultation in this area at local, provincial, regional and national level in

## Annex II: Thematic Streams

### Stream 1a: Final Conclusions

each country; and to take stock of their missions and effectiveness in meeting the requirements of sustainable development, decentralisation and inclusive multisectoral representativeness.

- In these formalised spaces for dialogue, it is recommended to (i) analyse all land use planning instruments and clarify the objective, scope, enforceability, horizontal (between sectors) and vertical articulation (between levels of government - central and decentralised) in the spirit of decentralisation; and (ii) share experiences on the preparation and implementation of land use plans, learning from successes and failures.
- Adopt a decentralised approach to the development of land use plans at the local level, guided by national policies and strategies, national and sub-national schemes. sufficiently clear priorities adapted to each jurisdiction's conditions; quality technical tools and analysis and expert facilitation, with a view to reaching a consensus on the sustainable development strategy at the level of each jurisdiction
- Launch a regional programme, which could be translated into country programmes, to support local land use facilitators in regions where land tensions are the greatest, together with specialized decentralised administrations.

**B. Delineate and secure rural areas in order to guarantee their sustainability through models of governance and land tenure security adapted** to each type of activity and stakeholder (state, private sector, communities, vulnerable groups). These models must recognise, secure and ensure the inclusive management of overlapping rights.

**C. Prioritise and incentivise the protection of high value forests** and to do so, it is recommended to:

- Develop a common definition of high value forests in terms of cultural, socio-economic, biodiversity and carbon values, through participatory processes, in order to integrate these areas into land-use plans and policies.
- Prioritise the sustainability of high-value forests by ensuring equitable sharing of costs and benefits between local, national and international stakeholders, including through appropriate, transparent and sustainable financing mechanisms, such as PES and carbon finance.
- When net losses of valuable forests cannot be avoided, develop standards to assess the impacts of structuring public and private investments and develop appropriate environmental and social compensation mechanisms.

We the authors of the Impulse Paper and all the members of the working group look forward to working further together as Congo Basin countries to improve and standardise our approaches to land-use planning in order to better achieve the common goals of sustainable development.

**Libreville, 8 July 2022**

**The participants**



## Conditions et perspectives pour une économie durable du bois

Impulse paper - RdP PFBC Libreville 2022

### 1 - Rappel des engagements de la Déclaration des États d'Afrique centrale à la COP 26 de Glasgow

- Améliorer la gouvernance forestière
- Poursuivre les efforts nécessaires pour préserver nos forêts tropicales et conserver la biodiversité
- Mettre en place un système fiscal incitatif favorisant la gestion durable des forêts en exploitation, le développement de chaînes de valeur ajoutée durable et la transformation plus poussée des ligneux et PFNL
- Mettre en place des systèmes de vérification et de traçabilité pour les produits forestiers destinés tant à l'exportation qu'aux marchés nationaux
- Promouvoir davantage l'économie verte en adoptant des stratégies publiques contribuant à la gestion durable des ressources naturelles
- Maîtriser les émissions de CO2
- Promouvoir des systèmes ou mécanismes de paiement pour les Services Ecosystémiques (PSE) et/ou de paiement pour la Préservation des Services Ecosystémiques (PPSE)

### 2 - Évolution de l'économie du bois et tendances

Evolution des marchés mondiaux et africains du bois (source : OFAC – Etats des forêts 2021 in press)

Sur un marché mondial estimé à 178 milliards USD et à 440 millions de tonnes, la part de marché des États d'Afrique centrale n'est que de 2,2 milliards USD pour un volume de 4,2 millions de tonnes (soit 1 %). La valeur totale des exportations a très peu évolué sur 10 ans malgré une augmentation du volume de 35 % qui a impliqué une baisse du prix moyen par tonne tous produits confondus.

## Annex II: Thematic Streams

### Stream 1b: Impulse Paper

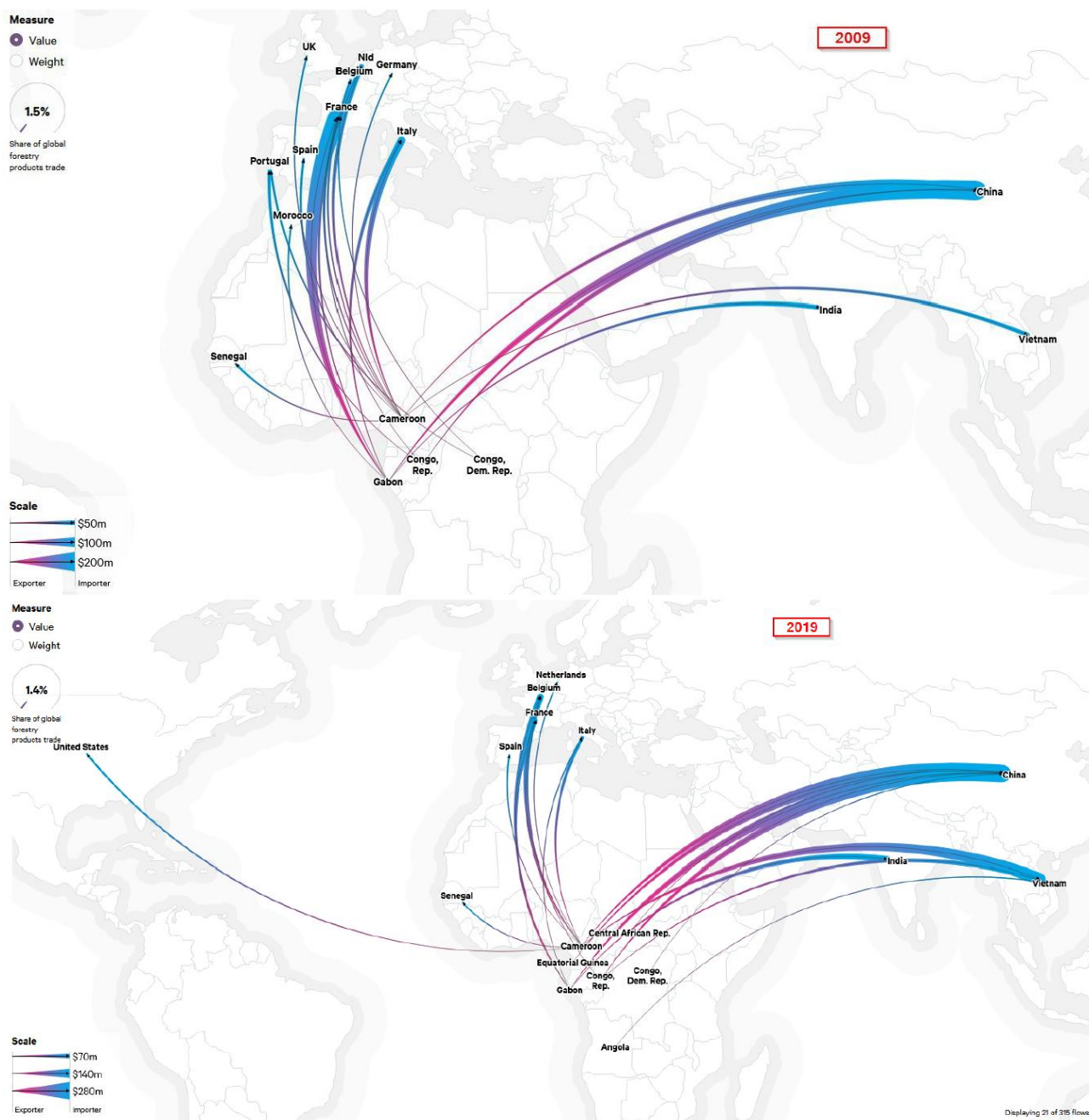


Figure 1 : Représentation des flux commerciaux depuis les pays d'Afrique centrale en 2009 et en 2019 (source : <https://resourcetrade.earth/>)

### La production du bois dans les forêts du Bassin du Congo

A l'heure actuelle 21% des forêts du Bassin du Congo sont réservées pour des concessions forestières industrielles. Un pourcentage plus petit est attribué à des petits permis d'exploitation forestière (ventes de coupe, forêts communales, forêts communautaires, etc.).

Le tableau suivant montre la situation actuelle de l'activité forestière industrielle et communautaire par pays. Les données proviennent de l'OFAC-COMIFAC (en concertation avec les ministères en charge des forêts) et de l'ATIBT (données certification).

## Annex II: Thematic Streams

### Stream 1b: Impulse Paper

	CMR	CAR	COG	EQG	GAB	RDC
Millions d'ha de concessions part de la surface nationale des forêts	7,5 37%	3,7 17%	14,8 67%	0,7 44%	16 68%	15,4 12%
Millions d'ha sous aménagement	6,4	3,4	8,8	0	13,2	6,4
Millions d'ha de forêts certifiés	3,6	0	4,9	0	2,7	0,7
Millions d'ha de forêts communautaires	2,3	?	?	?	x	2,1
Millions de m <sup>3</sup> de production formelle grumes (dans concessions et dans d'autres permis d'exploitation)	2,5	0,6	1,7	?	3,6	0,3
Millions de m <sup>3</sup> exportés sous forme de grumes	0,6	0,2	0,5	?	0	0,1

## 3 - La gouvernance forestière

### 31 - La lutte contre l'exploitation illégale

Après le Lacey Act aux Etats-Unis (2008), le Règlement Bois Européen (2010), la Loi d'interdiction d'exploitation illégale en Australie (2012) et le Clean Wood Act au Japon (2016), la Chine a modifié sa loi forestière en 2019 pour y inclure une interdiction nationale d'acheter, de transporter et de transformer du bois illégal.

Parallèlement différents pays du Bassin du Congo renforcent leurs contrôles de la légalité du bois à travers ou sans un processus de mise en oeuvre d'un APV FLEGT. Ils mettent un accent particulier sur la mise en place de systèmes nationaux de traçabilité, couplé à certaines vérifications de légalité. Les entreprises forestières et industrielles certifiées, ou en voie de certification, ont également mis en place leurs propres systèmes de traçabilité, lesquels contribuent à l'amélioration de la gestion interne.

Les ambitions en matière de lutte contre l'exploitation illégale sont élevées, aussi bien dans des pays exportateurs que dans des pays importateurs de bois tropical. Des avancées existent qui ont pu conduire à des saisies de bois et des sanctions, en Afrique comme en Europe. Le processus d'éradication du commerce illégal des bois reste cependant long, lourd et avec de nombreux défis à relever.

### 32 - La certification tierce partie de la gestion forestière

La certification forestière tierce partie permet un suivi indépendant de la gestion forestière. Il existe dans le Bassin du Congo : i) 3 certificats de légalité et traçabilité : Origine Légale du bois (OLB) par Bureau Veritas, Legal Source (LS) par Preferred by Nature et Timber Legally Verified (TLV) par Control Union, et ii) 2 certificats qui attestent une gestion durable des forêts : FSC et PAFC, ce dernier étant adossé au PEFC. Les organismes de certification font l'objet d'un processus d'accréditation. Le Gabon, en prévoyant une obligation de certification, a mis en place une fiscalité incitative, diminuant ainsi la concurrence déloyale entre les entreprises certifiées et les entreprises non-certifiées.

La KfW Entwicklungsbank finance un programme pluriannuel pour promouvoir l'écocertification des forêts en AC. Une des activités est le coaching des entreprises dans le processus de certification depuis leur engagement écrit jusqu'à l'audit de certification. Ce long processus porte progressivement ses fruits et démontre en même temps du besoin d'appui pour inciter de nouvelles entreprises à s'engager.

Le bois certifié FSC d'AC continue à souffrir de la mauvaise image mondiale de l'exploitation forestière tropicale. Les campagnes d'organisations telles Greenpeace et Amis de la terre contre l'exploitation illégale et contre la conversion des forêts pour l'agro-industrie, ont imprimées des images de coupes rases des forêts tropicales dans la mémoire collective mondiale. De même, cette réputation d'un niveau élevé et généralisé de corruption dans les pays producteurs affecte l'image des forêts certifiées. Au final, c'est comme si on avait deux niveaux de certification FSC : celui des forêts l'occidentales et celui des forêts



tropicales. Les exigences à l'égard des forêts tropicales ne faisant que croître. Pourtant le niveau de qualité des certificats FSC et PEFC-PAFC dans le Bassin du Congo est déjà élevé, et n'est en rien inférieur à celui des pays occidentaux, notamment grâce aux systèmes de certification (accréditation et contrôles), et aux équipes d'audit, souvent plurinationales ; ce qui les rend moins vulnérables au chantage ou à la corruption. On doit pouvoir maintenir la qualité de ces certificats car les surfaces à certifier devraient augmenter.

## 4 - La gestion forestière

### 41 - L'amélioration continue de l'aménagement forestier

L'exploitation forestière, suivant les normes d'aménagement en vigueur, est la seule activité économique qui permet de préserver durablement les fonctions de la forêt (atténuation du climat, protection de la biodiversité, préservation du cycle de l'eau et des cours d'eau, production de PNFL et alimentation, préservation des sites culturels, etc.) et d'augmenter le stock de carbone. Lorsque du bois est transformé en produits marchands (par ex dans le BTP), le carbone reste stocké à long terme alors que la forêt continue à fixer du carbone, et la filière à contribuer au développement social et économique.

L'Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT) a coordonné 2 projets de recherche sur la dynamique des peuplements forestiers sous exploitation (DYNAFOR et P3FAC). Ces projets ont été mis en oeuvre par des institutions de recherche (CIRAD et Université de Gembloux) en collaboration avec l'administration forestière de plusieurs pays d'AC et avec leurs entreprises forestières. Ces projets ont démontré que, pour certaines essences, la reconstitution du volume se fait difficilement dans un système basé sur un prélèvement sélectif et une rotation de 25 ans, et que cela varie en fonction des types de forêts.

Au Gabon par exemple, les premiers plans d'aménagement des unités forestières d'aménagement (UFA) mis en oeuvre depuis les années 2000 (Précious Woods – CEB / Rougier Gabon et Compagnie des Bois du Gabon) arrivent bientôt à la fin de leur 1ère rotation ; au Cameroun, certaines UFA sont déjà en 2ème, voire en 3ème repasse, idem au Congo. Pour s'assurer de la durabilité de l'exploitation forestière, il faut faire partout le bilan et trouver des solutions pour palier à la faible reconstitution de certaines essences.

### 42 - La foresterie communale au Cameroun

Au Cameroun, la loi forestière prévoit depuis 1994 que les communes puissent se doter de leur propre patrimoine forestier, qu'elles gèrent elles-mêmes, et que les revenus soient versés chaque année au budget communal. L'association des communes forestières (ACFCAM) regroupe désormais près d'une centaine de communes dans tout le pays et donc tous les écosystèmes, avec près de 2 millions d'ha de forêts sous statut communal, classées dans le domaine forestier permanent, avec obligation d'aménagement et de mise en oeuvre d'un plan de gestion environnemental et social. L'ACFCAM dispose d'un centre technique de la forêt communale qui encadre les communes forestières à l'échelle nationale, chacune se dotant de sa propre cellule de foresterie communale. Les forêts communales représentent donc désormais près de 10 % du domaine forestier national, et près de 25% des forêts du domaine forestier permanent en exploitation.

Dans les autres pays d'Afrique centrale où les processus de décentralisation sont moins avancés, le modèle des forêts communales n'est pas encore connu. Or, celui-ci apparaît comme une opportunité de sécuriser durablement des espaces dans leur domaine permanent, avec des règles de gestion équivalentes de celles des concessions, mais sous gestion des autorités locales et dans l'intérêt des populations de la commune.

### 43 - La foresterie sociale

## Annex II: Thematic Streams

### Stream 1b: Impulse Paper

La foresterie sociale comprend l'ensemble des activités qui contribuent au développement économique et au bien-être des populations locales, en particulier dans les zones agroforestières, banales et relevant du domaine forestier non permanent, notamment : les forêts communautaires (Fc), les cahiers des charges contractuelles (CCC), les séries à l'usage des populations (dites séries agricoles) et les actions relevant de la responsabilité sociétale des entreprises (RSE). Ces outils de développement local et de lutte contre les inégalités sociales sont mis en oeuvre par les communautés et par les entreprises forestières. Au titre des réalisations sociales, il peut s'agir de constructions de bâtiments, de développement d'activités agricoles et agroforestières, de la valorisation de PNFL, de l'ouverture et/ou réhabilitation de routes, etc. Leur mise en oeuvre peut se faire avec l'appui de partenaires du secteur privé telles les entreprises forestières, industrielles, cacaoyères, etc. et des acteurs de la société civile, encadrées et suivies par l'Administration.

Pour les Forêts Communautaires, la vision et les activités des communautés sont très diverses. Alors que certaines s'attèlent à réaliser des actions de préservation et de restauration de forêts dégradées, d'autres s'adonnent à l'exploitation exclusive du bois d'oeuvre, voire de leur pillage, au détriment des autres vocations assignées à leurs forêts. Cette diversité se reflète sur le niveau de développement des villages, financé en principe par les revenus issus de l'exploitation de ces forêts. Les capacités d'investissements réels sont souvent très faibles pour les communautés oeuvrant pour la préservation, tandis que les infrastructures sociales ou autres, sont plus fréquentes dans les villages engagés dans l'exploitation forestière. Dans la plupart des forêts communautaires, les conflits sociaux sont nombreux et la cohésion des groupes menacée, plusieurs facteurs en sont à l'origine, le principal étant la mauvaise gouvernance.

La mise en oeuvre des CCC se heurte à plusieurs obstacles, comme le faible respect des obligations légales relatives au volet social externe, ou la mauvaise définition de projets financés par le fonds de développement local alimenté par le concessionnaire au profit des populations impactées par ses activités. Les plus grands challenges pour les partenariats de la foresterie sociale sont la gestion communautaire de l'activité économique et le maintien à long terme des ressources naturelles.

## 5 - La transformation du bois et le développement de l'industrie

### 51 - Les instruments politiques pour instruire la transformation locale du bois

#### Interdiction d'exportation de grumes

Les pays du Bassin du Congo ont une forte volonté de développer l'industrie du bois et d'augmenter le taux local de transformation ; cette volonté se traduit par des mesures démontrant d'un véritable investissement des États, tel l'arrêt d'exportation de grumes (*pourtant source de recettes fiscales*). La décision des pays CEMAC + la République Démocratique du Congo d'arrêter l'exportation des grumes à partir du 1 janvier 2023 est confirmé d'autant plus que les Décisions et Directives pour la mise en oeuvre de cette décision viennent d'être validés par les Ministres des pays concernés lors de leur réunion Ministérielle du 10 juin 2022. Ces décisions et directives portent sur l'encadrement et l'accompagnement de l'interdiction d'exporter des grumes (mesures fiscales dont l'exonération des droits d'entrée sur le matériel pour la transformation du bois, l'harmonisation des produits/par niveau de transformation, la certification et les mesures incitatives, etc.). Les décisions du 10 juin 2022, permettrons aux pays d'inclure les mesures fiscales dans les lois financières/budgétaires.

### **Création de Zones d'économie spéciale (ZES)**

Le Gabon était le 1er pays à interdire l'exportation de grumes et à installer une zone d'économie spéciale en 2010. Les ZES (ex de Nkok) sont aménagées pour faciliter l'installation des entreprises: eau, électricité, routes, chemin de fer, guichet unique, avantages fiscaux, facilités d'exportation des produits transformés.

Dix ans après le lancement de la GSEZ de Nkok d'autres défis émergent pour améliorer le climat des affaires et rendre la zone attractive pour des investissements durables dans la transformation du bois : amélioration de la logistique (qualité des voies, gasoil, électricité, internet, etc.), développement d'une formation professionnelle adaptée aux besoins des industriels, professionnalisation des PME, développement des marchés régionaux, réduction des prix du bois destiné aux marchés domestiques en croissance.

La décision CEMAC sur l'interdiction d'exportation des grumes prévoit également la création des ZES dans les pays CEMAC et République Démocratique du Congo sur base de PPP (Partenariats Publics Privés).

### **Avantages fiscaux pour le commerce de produits bois dans l'espace CEEAC (Décisions de 2015)**

Les décisions de la CEEAC prises lors de la Conférence de des Chefs d'État en 2015 imposent à tous les pays membres l'exonération totale des droits de douanes et de TVA sur tous les flux de bois intracommunautaires, et prend des dispositions pour la promotion des PME et TPE de transformation du bois afin de faire émerger ce secteur économique et le rendre apte à approvisionner le marché intérieur et à exporter des produits bois de qualité. A ce jour, aucun pays membre n'a mis en application ces décisions.

## 52 - Garanties d'approvisionnement de l'industrie du bois

### **La logistique**

Pour développer l'économie du bois, il faut une bonne logistique, souvent insuffisante en Afrique centrale. Il faut des solutions pour le transport rapide des intrants, du matériel et des produits bois, pour l'énergie et la disponibilité d'électricité fiable, pour avoir un bon réseau téléphonique et l'internet, etc.

### **Le régime de partage de production**

Le modèle de partage de production a été introduit dans le droit congolais par la loi n°33-2020 du 8 juillet 2020 portant code forestier. L'adoption de ce régime est motivé par l'objectif d'augmenter la contribution du secteur à l'économie et d'accroître les revenus de l'État, et par le désir d'augmenter la transformation locale. Il n'existe pas de définition claire du concept de "partage de production" lequel vient du secteur pétrolier et veut s'adapter au secteur forestier, pourtant nettement plus complexe, ce qui fait que le projet de loi y relatif est toujours en discussion.

### **L'équilibre durable entre la ressource bois disponible et la capacité de 1ère transformation**

Le développement de l'industrie du bois ne devrait pas conduire à la déforestation. Il y a un besoin d'équilibre entre la ressource disponible à long terme et la capacité installée (ou à venir) de l'industrie de 1ère transformation en fonction des essences visées, permettant une garantie de l'approvisionnement en grumes des industries actuelles et futures. Une étude de 2018 du FRMi pour la BAD présente des estimations du bois disponible dans les qualités moindres ou dans les essences peu ou pas connues : « LKTS ». Mais la seule disponibilité de volumes ne permet pas de décider de leur valorisation. Pour ce faire, il faut commencer par créer un besoin, une demande et remonter la chaîne de production vers la possibilité d'utilisation d'une essence moins connue. Les décisions de la CEMAC devraient également permettre la valorisation des essences LTKS. Pour permettre une meilleure connaissance de certaines essences il serait très utile de doter un ou deux pays CEMAC d'un laboratoire et centre de testes dans le cadre de la normalisation des produits.

### **Augmentation de la ressource bois pour transformation**

Le rythme de croissance de la demande des marchés sous-régionaux en bois donne à penser que certains pays ne seront plus en mesure ni d'exporter du bois d'oeuvre, ni même de satisfaire leur demande intérieure d'ici à quelques années ou dizaines d'années. Il devient de ce fait impératif d'anticiper cette future pénurie de bois provenant de forêts primaires peu productives, en installant des plantations d'arbres de toutes les essences les plus demandées sur les marchés dans toutes les zones le permettant, notamment dans les zones dégradées disposant d'un statut foncier sécurisé.

#### 53 - Le développement de la transformation plus poussée des bois

## **6 – Résumé de quelques problématiques à discuter**

La gouvernance du secteur forêts-bois est problématique, quel que soit le marché ciblé, et tout particulièrement concernant les filières d'approvisionnement du marché asiatique et du marché domestique. Dans une approche mondialisée du marché des bois, il est important que les pays exportateurs et les pays importateurs partagent une vision commune de la définition de la légalité et de la traçabilité des produits depuis la souche jusqu'au marché destinataire final. Dans des pays avec une grande population et une forte croissance démographique, tel que le Cameroun et la RDC, la formalisation du secteur informel est urgent.

La certification de légalité et de traçabilité facilite l'import du bois dans les pays qui ont mis en place un règlement contre le commerce du bois illégal. Toutefois la certification de gestion durable des forêts, malgré la haute qualité des certificats en Afrique Centrale, souffre de l'image public international de la faible gouvernance forestière dans des pays tropicaux. Ainsi les marchés pour produits de bois certifiés FSC et/ou PEFC-PAFC du Bassin du Congo ne se développent que peu, tout comme les surfaces de concessions certifiées.

La gestion durable, selon les normes des plans d'aménagement, permet de préserver les fonctions essentielles des forêts (atténuation climat, protection des animaux, protection des cours d'eau, collecte de PNFL, préservation des sites culturelles, etc) et d'augmenter le stock de carbone. Cependant des activités de recherche ont démontré que dans un système de faibles prélèvements par hectare pour certaines essences ils existent des difficultés de restitution de leurs volumes dans la durée de la rotation. Des actions sont nécessaires pour une amélioration continue de l'aménagement forestier.

Les activités de foresterie sociale souffrent d'un faible respect des obligations légales et la mauvaise définition de projets. Ces faiblesses se traduisent souvent par des conflits entre acteurs et une gestion non durable des ressources. L'approche communautaire demande un renforcement de capacités à longue durée, notamment en termes de communication et de gestion commune.

Après la décision gabonaise d'interdiction de l'exportation des grumes et de mis en place d'une ZES il y a une dizaine d'années, cette disposition est maintenant étendue par la CEMAC aux autres pays et prendra effet au 1er janvier 2023, impliquant une transformation systématique des bois avant leur mise en marché. Cela doit donc se traduire par des investissements en termes d'outils de transformation sans que ça conduit à la raréfaction de la ressource bois. La mauvaise situation logistique, le manque d'ouvriers qualifiés, la non-connaissance de la capacité de première transformation installée (industriel et artisanal) sont tant de facteurs qui limitent le développement de la transformation. Page 8 de 11

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### Stream 1b: Impulse Paper

L'exploitation des forêts sèches, principalement pour le bois énergie, est peu et mal encadrée, et souvent hors contrôle, en particulier en dehors des concessions sous aménagement. Le reboisement et plus généralement la plantation forestière et agroforestière devraient être systématisés partout.

A l'égard des nouvelles opportunités de financement, notamment celles liées à la valorisation du carbone, à la plantation forestière ou d'autres services environnementaux (eau, biodiversité), la question de la répartition des revenus potentiels se pose clairement entre le propriétaire et le gestionnaire.

#### 61 – Quelques défis à relever

1. Plusieurs pays et entreprises ont développé des systèmes informatiques de traçabilité pour mieux maîtriser les flux du bois. La maîtrise des flux de bois représente une forte avancée pour la gouvernance forestière. Tandis que les systèmes sont opérationnels chez les entreprises qui s'y sont investies, au niveau national les gouvernements manquent des ressources pour opérationnaliser ces systèmes, notamment en termes d'équipements et de formation des acteurs (gouvernements décentralisés et entreprises non-familiers avec la traçabilité).
2. Obliger la certification de la légalité et traçabilité ajoutera une plus à la gouvernance forestière. Vue l'importante influence des marchés asiatiques des solutions devront être trouvées pour former les entreprises asiatiques dans la compréhension de l'aménagement forestier et pour accompagner les marchés asiatiques vers davantage d'exigences de légalité. La bonne sélection et la formation des auditeurs sont également des facteurs clés pour réussir une certification fiable de la légalité et de traçabilité du bois.
3. Rendre visible le lien entre la gestion forestière selon les normes FSC et/ou PEFC-PAFC et les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) définis par l'ONU pourra contribuer à une amélioration de l'image des forêts certifiées dans le Bassin du Congo. Ce lien pourra aussi appuyer le processus de valorisation des services écosystémiques.
4. Développer une économie dite « verte » pourra permettre de sortir d'un modèle basé seulement sur l'exploitation forestière (et notamment de la grume) pour aller vers les autres usages de la forêt (et des savanes) avec de l'agriculture (cacao, palmier à huile, hévéa, cultures vivrières et fruitières, etc.) façon durable, de l'élevage (mobile et sédentaire), de l'exploitation des ligneux (bois de feu et de service) et des non ligneux, mais aussi du tourisme, etc. le tout dans le cadre d'une approche paysage. Ce développement n'est non seulement intéressant au niveau national, mais aussi au niveau local pour les forêts communautaires et les séries agricoles des concessions forestières. Les deux cas nécessitent un programme intensif de renforcement de capacités des acteurs et du coaching en communication et gestion.
5. Des analyses (scientifiques) complémentaires sont nécessaires pour évaluer l'efficacité des plans d'aménagement et les méthodes pour leur développement, il en est de même pour connaître la ressource bois réellement disponible en tenant compte de la rentabilité économique et écologique durable de l'exploitation des différentes essences.
6. La décision de la Conférence des Chefs d'État de la CEEAC de 2015 sur la circulation et la commercialisation hors douane et sans TVA des bois à l'intérieur de l'espace communautaire est une des solutions primordiales pour formaliser les marchés domestiques et freiner la déforestation dans des pays à forte densité de population, mais elle n'est toujours pas appliquée. Comprendre les raisons pour cette non-application pourra permettre de débloquer la situation.
7. Le développement de l'industrie de transformation ne peut se faire en prenant en compte une amélioration de la logistique, la mise en place d'un système de formation professionnelle, l'assurance d'un équilibre entre le potentiel entre la ressource forestière et la capacité.

Dans le secteur forestier, la certification FSC (*Forest Stewardship Council*) s'est développée significativement en Afrique centrale, mais semble plafonner depuis une dizaine d'années avec la réorientation des flux d'exportation de bois vers l'Asie aux dépens des marchés européens. L'idée d'inciter à l'adoption de la certification par une baisse de la fiscalité (baisse compensée aux États par des transferts internationaux) apparaît au début des années 2010. Une variante de cette idée est le principe d'une modulation de la fiscalité selon la durabilité des méthodes de production. Parmi les mécanismes envisagés, le principe du « bonus-malus » semble prometteur dans la mesure où, toutes choses égales par ailleurs, il ne diminue pas les recettes budgétaires (neutralité budgétaire) et ne nécessite donc pas de transferts internationaux compensatoires.

Ce principe va trouver un écho auprès de certains gouvernements, comme au Gabon où une loi de finance rectificative (7/2020) instaure trois taux différents pour la taxe de superficie (une des principales redevances que doivent acquitter les concessions forestières) selon le type de certification obtenue (certification de gestion durable, de légalité, sans certification).

Régime précédent	FCFA 400/ha/an
<b>Nouveau régime</b>	
Non-certifié	FCFA 800/ha/an
Certification de légalité	FCFA 600/ha/an
Forest management certification (FSC ou PAFC)	FCFA 300/ha/an

Cette prise en compte d'un instrument privé (la certification) dans un dispositif de politique publique est une première dans le secteur forestier en Afrique, mais ce principe rencontre encore des résistances dans certains pays. Cette fiscalité incitative forestière et l'exemple gabonais font l'objet de débats dans d'autres pays, et notamment à la CEMAC.

8. Préserver les forêts du domaine permanent contre des intrusions agricoles et développer des plantations forestières ne pourront se faire que à travers une réglementation du foncier rural et un plan d'affectation de terre défini et appliqué dans tous les pays d'AC.

### 63 - Quelques questions pour alimenter les débats ?

- L'économie du bois en Afrique centrale est-elle actuellement durable ?
  - o *Que signifie « durable » ? définition du mot « durable » → « Satisfaire nos besoins présents sans compromettre ceux des générations futures » ?*
  - o *Quels sont les principaux facteurs de non-durabilité ? i) gouvernance défaillante des gouvernements vs demande des marchés asiatiques ; ii) croissance de la demande mondiale en bois de toutes catégories ; iii) systèmes agricoles vs forte croissance démographique et besoins en terres.*
- L'économie verte, c'est quoi, c'est qui, c'est comment ?
- Comment anticiper et quels changements opérer dans la gouvernance forestière ?

## Annex II: Thematic Streams

### Stream 1b: Impulse Paper

- Comment les exploitants forestiers vont-ils s'intégrer dans une économie verte plus diversifiée et plus durable ?
- Comment consolider les revenus des exploitants forestiers industriels en échange de nouveaux efforts de soutenabilité écologique et d'équité sociale ?
- Comment utiliser la fiscalité pour inciter aux changements et la rendre plus efficace ?
- Pourquoi a-t-on tant de mal à mettre en place des systèmes fiables de vérification de la légalité et de traçabilité des bois destinés aux marchés d'exportation et surtout aux marchés domestiques en pleine croissance ?
- Comment assainir les filières de commercialisation du bois de la souche au marché final asiatique, en intégrant la nouvelle réglementation CEMAC sur l'interdiction des grumes au 1er janvier 2023 ?
- Comment valoriser la certification ?
- La question du CO2 est-elle du ressort de l'exploitant forestier ? pourquoi devrait-il s'en préoccuper ?
- Comment harmoniser les politiques en matière fiscale à l'échelle de l'AC ?
- En quoi les PSE sont-ils intéressants pour les exploitants forestiers ?
- Pourquoi l'exploitant devrait-il consentir davantage d'efforts dans la gestion durable des espaces forestiers si le produit financier (PSE) devait aller finalement en tout ou partie au propriétaire ?
- Comment valoriser et étendre à d'autres pays l'expérience camerounaise des forêts communales ?
- Comment améliorer la gestion de la filière bois-énergie, en particulier dans les zones sèches ? Peut-on envisager une approche de concession ?
- Quel bilan peut-on faire des clusters et des zones économiques spéciales, en particulier de leurs liens avec l'amont et les approches territoriales ?
- Etc.

## 7 – Quelques propositions de recommandations à discuter

Pour combattre efficacement l'exploitation illégale des forêts il faudra avancer étape par étape :

1. Obligation nationale de traçabilité pour l'ensemble des grumes transportées depuis le site de production en forêt jusqu'au site de transformation ou d'export.
2. Obligation par les gouvernements d'Afrique centrale d'une vérification de la légalité tierce partie auditée selon des standards approuvés par ceux-ci avec des standards fondés sur les lois en vigueur – grilles APV par exemple.
3. Mise en place d'une fiscalité incitative pour tout investisseur dans la transformation, et d'une fiscalité adaptée pour appuyer la formalisation des marchés domestiques
4. Appuyer les pays à mettre en place des cellules d'intelligence économique pour l'analyse des données à la fiscalité forestière incitative, d'anticiper les évolutions et de planifier les évolutions. Également aider les entreprises, et particulièrement les PME dans la transformation du bois par des formations et un encadrement adéquat.
5. Appui à l'évolution des marchés asiatiques vers des exigences de légalité.
6. S'attaquer réellement au problème du foncier et de l'aménagement des territoires.
7. Impliquer les communes dans la gestion des territoires forestiers, en particulier dans le domaine forestier non permanent, et promouvoir les forêts communales dans le domaine forestier permanent.
8. Financer la recherche pour faire un bilan sur l'aménagement forestier et pour développer des méthodes pour une amélioration continue de l'aménagement durable des forêts.

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### Stream 1b: Impulse Paper

9. Garantir un équilibre à long terme entre la ressource bois disponible en forêt pour la transformation et la capacité industrielle et artisanale de première transformation.
10. Inciter les investissements dans les plantations forestières, y compris de bambou, dans des zones dégradées ou surexploitées
11. Alimenter les marchés locaux et régionaux en produits bois légaux et de qualité à prix raisonnable.
12. Décentraliser la gestion des forêts du domaine forestier non permanent et permanent.
13. Appuyer la mise en place dans les pays d'Afrique Centrale d'un système de formation professionnelle fonctionnel.
14. Financer un processus de concertation et de négociation pour s'accorder sur la répartition des revenus de crédits carbone et de paiements pour services environnementaux entre les parties prenantes de la gestion forestière.





# Recommendations Stream 1b: Conditions and perspectives for a sustainable wood economy

During two days, the participants of Stream 1b "Conditions and Prospects for a Sustainable Wood Economy" had productive discussions in four sessions:

- Legal and sustainable timber production;
- Third party certification of forest management;
- Social forestry;
- Wood processing and industry development.

The various presentations raised some crucial issues for the development of a sustainable timbereconomy in Central Africa and the following actions were recommended:

## Continuous improvement of forest management:

- Encourage and maintain discussions between researchers, administration and private sector;
- Integrate research results and recommendations into revised management standards (DME, rotation length, etc.);
- Assess the implementation of management plans over the last twenty years;
- Put all forest concessions under planning;
- Develop a regulatory framework to prepare management plans for the second rotation;
- Ensure the cost-effectiveness of forest concessions through the integration of a multipurpose approach in management plans;
- Identify markets for products made from lesser-known species (LKTS).

## Improving forest governance's image and reputation in Central Africa:

- Support financially the process of development, implementation and operationalisation of digital traceability and legal verification systems and create bridges between company and national systems;
- Use remote sensing for forest law enforcement (Early Warning System);
- Organise outreach campaigns after new regulations are issued;
- Improve communication between Asian companies and authorities (language barrier);
- Promote tax incentives for forest certification based on a bonus-malus system;
- Continue coaching companies to inform them about certification, then accompany them towards certification (example PPECF);

## Annex II: Thematic Streams

### Stream 1b: Final Conclusions

- Select and train more auditors competent in forestry, social and environmental fields;
- Improve the skills of companies in social and communication fields;
- Promote certified products on the international market.

### Strengthening social forestry and reducing demographic pressure:

- Enhance the governance of community forests, communal forests (Cameroon) and local community forest concessions (DRC);
- Manage subcontractors who exploit timber resources in community forests, communal forests and community forest concessions (respect for exploitation standards);
- Simplify community forest management procedures for timber harvesting;
- Adopt a comprehensive approach for the management of community forests, communal forests etc. to integrate different commercial activities (wood, agriculture, PNFL, tourism) and wildlife management;
- Create links between community forests and national markets;
- Build community capacity, especially in processing, marketing and management;
- Develop and implement family planning and environmental education campaigns.
- Define a land use plan that takes into account population growth, especially for agricultural products and firewood.

### Improving the value of forest resources and supplying the domestic market with legal wood:

- Offer SME and SMI operators a stable regulatory framework that provides clarity on the investments to be made;
- Create an attractive ecosystem for wood processing (logistics, inputs, fiscal incentives, qualified labour and management);
- Implement decisions N°29/CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15 of 25 May 2015, on the adoption of measures for the development of wood markets in Central Africa and N°30/CEEAC/CCEG/XV/2015 of 25 May 2015 on measures to promote SMEs/SMIs in the wood sector in Central Africa, in full respect of forest governance, in order to promote the development of domestic and sub-regional markets for legal wood;
- Rapidly prepare a regulatory and fiscal framework to be able to apply the log export ban from 2023 and attract investment in wood processing for the countries of the Congo Basin;
- Include factories in industrial zones to recover waste (particle boards, cogeneration, etc.) and to promote secondary and tertiary processing (glue factory);
- Include the use of legal wood in public contracts in the legal texts relating to the award of contracts;
- Promote products made from little-known species and other materials such as bamboo;
- Ensure a sustainable balance between the availability of forest resources and the industrial and artisanal capacity of primary processing;
- Put in place mechanisms to support the development of forest plantations;
- Facilitate the formalisation of SMEs;
- Strengthen links between industrial and artisanal companies for the supply of wood to the latter;
- Strengthen the skills of local SMIs to play a more important role in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> transformation and the valorisation of exploitation and transformation waste.

## Final recommendations

1. Support financially the process of development, implementation and operationalisation of digital traceability and legal verification systems and create bridges between company and national systems.
2. Encourage and promote forest legality and sustainability certification.
3. Adopt a multipurpose and inclusive landscape approach in management plans.
4. Develop a regulatory framework to prepare management plans for the second rotation.
5. Implement decisions N°29/CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15 of 25 May 2015, on the adoption of measures for the development of wood markets in Central Africa and N°30/CEEAC/CCEG/XV/2015 of 25 May 2015 on measures to promote SMEs/SMIs in the wood sector in Central Africa, in full respect of forest governance, in order to promote the development of domestic and sub-regional markets for legal wood;
6. Include the use of legal wood for public contracts in legal texts relating to the award of contracts;
7. Provide a secure regulatory and fiscal framework to attract investments in wood processing for SMEs;
8. Support countries to set up economic intelligence units to monitor the sustainable development of the wood sector and anticipate changes;
9. Strengthen actors' capacities through the development of vocational training;
10. Promote products made from little-known species and other materials such as bamboo.
11. Ensure a sustainable balance between the availability of forest resources and the industrial and artisanal capacity of primary processing.
12. Sensitise populations on family planning and organise/strengthen environmental education.



## One Pager

### Stream 1b : Conditions et perspectives pour une économie durable du bois

#### Déroulement des travaux

Le Stream 1b a été préparé par deux leaders :

- Leader : Ministère des Eaux, des Forêts, de la Mer, de l'Environnement chargé du Plan Climat et du Plan d'Affectation des Terres du Gabon
- Co-leader : Association Technique International des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT).

Ce Stream a été modéré conjointement par M Jacques MOULOUNGOU du Gabon et M Jean-Marie NOIREAUD, consultant.

Pendant les journées de 5 et 6 juillet 2022, les participants du Stream 1b « Conditions et perspectives pour une économie durable du bois » ont eu de fructueux échanges autour de quatre sessions qui ont porté sur :

- La production légale et durable du bois ;
- La certification tierce partie de la gestion forestière ;
- La foresterie sociale ;
- La transformation du bois et le développement de l'industrie.

Les différentes communications ont permis de relever certaines questions cruciales au développement d'une économie durable du bois en Afrique centrale et ont formulés des recommandations dont les principales sont les suivantes :

#### Recommandations finales

1. Appuyer financièrement le processus de développement, d'implémentation et d'opérationnalisation des systèmes de traçabilité et de vérification de la légalité numériques et créer des passerelles entre les systèmes des entreprises et les systèmes nationaux.
2. Inciter et promouvoir la certification forestière de légalité et de durabilité.
3. Adopter une approche paysage, multi-usage et inclusive dans les plans d'aménagement.
4. Développer un cadre réglementaire pour préparer les plans d'aménagement pour la deuxième rotation.
5. Appliquer les décisions n°29/CEEAC/CCEG/XVI/15 du 25 mai 2015 portant Adoption des mesures de développement des marchés de bois d'oeuvre en Afrique Centrale et n°30/CEEAC/CCEG/XV/2015 du 25 mai 2015 portant sur les Mesures de promotion des PME/PMI de la filière Bois en Afrique centrale dans le plein respect de la gouvernance forestière, pour favoriser le développement des marchés domestiques et sous-régionaux en bois légal ;

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### Stream 1b: One Pager

6. Insérer dans les textes légaux relatifs aux passations de marchés, l'utilisation de bois légal dans les marchés publics ;
7. Fournir un cadre réglementaire et fiscal stable pour attirer des investissements dans la transformation du bois pour les PME/PMI ;
8. Appuyer les pays à mettre en place des cellules d'intelligence économique pour le pilotage du développement durable de la filière bois et l'anticipation des évolutions ;
9. Renforcer les capacités des acteurs par le développement de la formation professionnelle ;
10. Promouvoir des produits fabriqués avec des essences peu ou moins connues et d'autres matières comme le bambou.
11. Garantir un équilibre durable entre la disponibilité de la ressource en forêt et la capacité industrielle et artisanale de la première transformation.
12. Sensibiliser les populations sur la planification familiale et organiser/renforcer l'éducation environnementale.



## IMPULSE PAPER - Stream 2 : Biodiversity – Future of Protected Areas in Central Africa

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**General purpose:** *To continue the implementation of the COMIFAC Member States' Declaration of Commitment for the Forests of Central Africa ( CA) and call for equitable financing at COP26 with the joint donor declaration for a "Fair Deal" towards sustainable development of the Congo Basin, its peoples, its forests and its biodiversity.*

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*The focus on the future of protected areas (PAs) includes issues related to the CBD - Post 2020, good practices in PA management, peaceful transhumance for peaceful coexistence, ecotourism, sustainable employment and income creation, payments for ecosystem services..*

- Streamleader: COMIFAC
- Co-leaders: AWF, WCS
- Resource persons:
  - Olivier Mushiete (ICCN)
  - Michel Baudouin (APN)
  - Paul Scholte (GIZ)
  - Maxime Nzita (ECOFAC VI)
  - Praveen Moman (Volcanoes Safaris)
  - Romain Calaque (B4life/NaturAfrica)
  - Ngono Romuald, Julia metsio, GIZ  
COMIFAC
  - Julia Barske (WWF)
  - Florence Palla (RIOFAC)
- Blocks Leaders of the implementation of the N'Djaména Declaration
- i. Authors of the studies of the German CBFP Facilitation

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**Recall of commitments of the Central African States Declaration for the COP 26 in Glasgow**

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1. Strengthen national agencies for the management of protected areas and the development, where appropriate, of public-private partnerships (PPPs)
2. Maintain and strengthen regional cooperation and intersectoral coordination in biodiversity conservation, particularly through the management of transboundary national protected areas with respect to State sovereignty
3. Intensify advocacy within international fora in favour of financing the conservation and sustainable management of Congo Basin (CB) forest ecosystems
4. Establish mechanisms to offset the damage caused by wild animals in plantations and villages bordering the Congo Basin forests
5. Establish a sub-regional multidisciplinary platform on transhumance management

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**Background and key issues**

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The main PA complexes, especially those that are transboundary, represent the main ecological zones of the AC sub-region: Sudanian savannahs, Sudano-Sahelian savannahs and even Saharan savannahs, tree savannahs, dense and humid forests, swamp forests/gallery forests, mangroves, highland forests, etc. In several cases, the Parks and Reserves that constitute the heart of the protected landscape are surrounded on the periphery by forest concessions allocated to LT to concessionaires (which are in principle under management, and increasingly certified as legal or even sustainable management) and/or by sport hunting areas/reserves allocated to M/LT to amodiataires/hunting guides. The hunting areas have PA status and are delegated to private individuals who exploit them and pay royalties and taxes to the States. There are also rare tourist vision concessions (TNS and Virunga-Volcanoes, Akagera,...), Zoo and Botanical Gardens in towns, and some rare private wildlife enclosures.

Whatever the case, the question of the future of these PAs arises and therefore the question of the management model of these PAs in a long-term sustainability approach, knowing that demographic pressure is increasingly prevalent, and even sometimes already very strong in the most populated regions, or those considered to be the last settlement areas for humans, but also for their herds.

The CA states, owners of numerous PAs of all categories, allocate only a small public budget to their functioning, and even only a few under-supervised and under-equipped personnel. International public development aid, in the form of technical-financial assistance to a limited number of PAs, slows down but does not stop, and even less reverse, the deterioration because it does not allow for the significant and lasting strengthening of the failing administrations in charge of their management. Moreover, the human resources necessary for the good governance and management of the different categories of PAs are insufficient in quantity and quality.

In practice, only the 18 PAs (including the FZS partnership and ICCN co-management contract for Lomami) under delegation of management and co-management with private organisations such as international conservation NGOs and a few dozen managed by hunting Concessionaires, with a long-term delegation mandate, are demonstrating their capacity to reverse or at least stabilise the trend of degradation of biodiversity and its habitat within the limits of protection. At the level of the PA itself, this can only be achieved through a very rigorous surveillance system, an effective anti-poaching mechanism, the ability to enforce laws and regulations to the point of effectively punishing offenders, respect for human rights and engagement with local populations, the ability to compensate for the damage caused by wild animals to

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local crops, the ability to keep transhumant herds away from pastures and available natural water points, etc. Outside the PA, this should include support for land-use planning and development processes so that people can develop their economic and social activities without having to seek to satisfy their basic needs through the extraction of natural resources within the PA. After a decade of hindsight, we can see that delegated management of PAs involves both states and donors in alternative and virtuous processes of governance and management in M/LT of territories that go far beyond the limits of the PAs themselves, but their number remains very small in CA and the actors capable of being delegates too few. The observation is that management delegation, by creating confidence, makes it possible to mobilise much more funding for the delegated PA.

Everywhere the challenge is considerable, even more so in the most populated highland and savannah areas. The reality is also that the vast majority of PAs remain unfunded and unmanaged. Conservation of a PA is expensive, generally 5-10€/ha/year. However, most CA PAs, often transboundary, are difficult to access, sometimes located in areas of high insecurity. Until now, for these reasons of isolation and insecurity, vision tourism has remained marginal and does not allow the parks to be financed (with the notable exception of the mountain gorilla in DRC and Rwanda). Sport hunting tourism is in great difficulty, having enjoyed good times in the past, but successive security and health crises and demographic pressure in certain areas have greatly weakened it. For states, despite having ratified international commitments regarding the percentage of their territory allocated to conservation, it remains difficult and often impossible, for financial and social reasons, to allocate substantial budgets to wildlife protection areas while the country's populations remain poor.

Poor governance of the territories by the various actors involved at the administrative, customary and economic levels has many negative effects on the PAs, as soon as there are opportunities for immediate gains linked to illegal activities such as access to grazing land, water, gold panning, poaching of fauna and flora, access to land for farming, etc. By definition, revenues from illegal activities in PAs never reach the state coffers, and the cycle of general impoverishment is accentuated, except for the privileged few who have taken advantage of their dominant position. This poor governance is most often correlated with problems of insecurity, and when the security of goods and people is not assured, it is not possible to envisage the development of investments in any field.

In practice, it is the whole question of creating a favourable environment that is posed so that the conditions for balanced development can exist on the scale of the landscape within which the PA is one element among others in the planning of the territory and its socio-economic development. In the long run, some states will have to choose between increased protection and the transformation of land into agriculture and livestock farming. The question of the economic and social yield of protected areas is therefore a pressing one, because if PAs remain unproductive, future pressures could lead to their disappearance.

The question of how PAs should be managed (centralised or decentralised) through a private body requires reflection on whether the 30% objectives can be achieved efficiently. Similarly, the need for linkage (mainly legislative) to the economy needs to be accelerated (most countries would integrate the Blue Economy concept without including PAs).

The "miracle" solution long advocated by conservation actors, based on the valorisation of PAs and the financing of their protection through tourism (eco-tourism, hunting tourism), is proving to be increasingly unrealistic for the majority of CA PAs; this is due to both cyclical (health crises, political instability, insecurity) and structural reasons (weakness of the tourism sector in most countries, lack of political support, difficulties of access, disadvantages of forested PAs for visionary tourism)



### Some questions for the sub-groups

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1. How to ensure the financing and management efficiency of PAs in CA?
  - What is the management/investment cost per year of the different PAs in Central Africa? What is the funding provided, and for how long, what models, mechanisms, modalities for payment for ecosystem services? How to mobilise endogenous funding for the financing of PAs? How to intensify advocacy within international fora in favour of financing protected areas in Central Africa?
  - How to ensure effective AML in PAs and beyond at the landscape level?
  - What role for national PA agencies?
  - and on what model of financing? How to create new ones?
  - What models, combinations of sustainable management models to ensure biodiversity conservation and PA effectiveness? (1) Delegation of management, PPP, Co-management - (2) How to develop and accelerate the development of national PA agencies? Technical, human and financial capacity?
  - How to strengthen regional cooperation and cross-sectoral coordination in biodiversity conservation, especially through the management of transboundary national protected areas?
  - National PA agencies: Operating costs? Some figures on budgets and staff of ICCN, ANPN, ACFAP and others?)
  
2. How to ensure an enabling environment and towards the 30% PA target (3 countries are already above 30%)?

Management efficiency of Protected Areas in Central Africa: mismatch between increase in PA surface and management efficiency of existing PAs; target of 30% of PAs for each CA country in a context of climate change and biodiversity loss.

- What models for CA PAs by 2030 and beyond in a sub-region where the population will double by 2050 and at least triple by 2100?
- Is there a real need to increase PAs when most are already "paper parks"? (bearing in mind that there are major demographic differences between the 10 countries in the sub-region, notably Gabon, Congo and CAR)
- Is a strategic 'retreat' (concentrating scarce resources on residual pockets of biodiversity in order to be able to conserve them more effectively) possible and if so, under what conditions?
- Which PA management mechanisms would be appropriate in the context of 30% of PAs if all countries joined: centralised or decentralised management?
- How to integrate the human resources issue?
- How to institutionalise the enforcement of PA Management Plans?
- Should the concept of "Buffer Zones" be reviewed or redefined, as in most PAs they hardly exist anymore?
- How can PAs be integrated into a landscape approach with the necessary development of agriculture and forestry in the face of increasing rural and urban needs?
- How to design multi-purpose PAs within a multi-actor landscape?
- How to improve and accelerate the formalisation and implementation of agreements between states and local actors on transboundary PAs?
- How can forestry and hunting concessions (and communal forests) be integrated into a logic of synergy with the Parks and Reserves that constitute the heart of the landscapes dedicated to protection? How to update hunting tourism concessions and multiply vision tourism concessions (OECMS) in French = other effective conservation measures per area?

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- How to ensure that biodiversity conservation and landscape restoration are properly represented in economic planning systems in CA?
- How to convince and facilitate public and private investment in PA landscapes?

#### 3. How to develop tourism in Central Africa's national parks?

- What future for vision tourism depending on the natural environment (savannah, desert, forest, mountain, mangrove, etc.)?
- How to develop synergies between vision tourism, hunting tourism, hiking or horse riding, industrial tourism, research tourism, etc. e.g. hunting areas?
- How can hunting tourism be diversified?
- What synergies are possible between the different categories of tourism enterprises and other economic activities (forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.)? How to optimise logistical availabilities (especially those of industrial sites) and enhance tourism opportunities outside PAs?
- How to convince states to invest in natural resource/PA tourism?
- How to develop a national and sub-regional tourism clientele in PAs?
- How to train human resources for conservation and tourism?
- How can the environment be made sufficiently favourable to attract private sector investment in often remote and insecure areas?
- What are the obstacles to tourism development?

#### 4. How to strengthen the role of local communities and indigenous peoples in the governance and management of PAs?

- Human-wildlife conflicts? the question of compensation for damage caused by wildlife and also for damage caused by transhumant herds on crops? - What model and approach to promote coexistence in plantations and villages bordering the forests of the Congo Basin?
- How to ensure the security of goods and people? Reconciling conservation, security and development
- How to accelerate the implementation of the N'Djaména Declaration from the perspective of biodiversity conservation and the future of protected areas?
- How can community and private PAs emerge?
- The issue of the eviction of populations settled in the heart of PAs?
- Investment in indigenous peoples and local communities - Respect for human rights - participation - co-management etc.?
- How to deal with discrimination issues?
- How to accelerate the role of PAs in community development?
- How to achieve regional norms/standards for complaints management mechanisms for protected areas? What pilot projects are already underway? What experiences/lessons can be learned?
- How can we increase the place of women in PA decision-making bodies, as well as in management teams?

## **Recommendations**

### **1. On financing and management effectiveness of PAs in CA: some conclusions:**

**Recommendations 1:** The form of management should be based on an analysis of the framework conditions / threats of the PA. Participative or even community-based management is only possible if the PA is not threatened by armed groups.

**Recommendation 2:** Given the advantages of co-management and delegated management models of PAs in Africa, the CBFP partners encourage government partners as well as NGOs and donors to promote these models of governance and to establish the necessary laws and policies that will allow for these models to spread in the region. They should meanwhile ensure that national capacities development should be part of the agreement.

**Recommendation 3:** Strengthen professionalism in PA management in Central Africa through training and appropriate remuneration of eco-guards.

**Recommendation 4:** Government budgets will in the foreseeable future not be able to fully cover the expenses of a protected areas network that will cover at least 30 % of land, sea and water as most countries have committed to. Reason why, we strongly encourage the CBFP's partners states and non-states actors to develop new strategies and financial mechanisms to fund these networks.

**Recommendation 5:** we encourage CBFP's partners states to support the creation/establishment of A Pan-African Conservation Trust (A-PACT) which would address this gap in Africa through a private, legally independent sustainable financing mechanism for Africa's 8500+ protected and conserved areas (P&CAs).

**Recommendation 6:** the CBFP's partners encourages new conservation finance mechanisms for long-term funding of PAs that combines money from international donors with commitments from local governments for long-term support of protected areas. ARPA for life in the Amazon is a successful example.

**Recommendation 7:** The financing of PAs and their management according to Public Private Partnership (PPP) principles have proven their effectiveness and impact in countries with different socio-economic and security contexts. The implementation of sustainable and efficient PPPs nevertheless requires a strong ownership of the principles and modalities of PPP by governments, private partners and relevant public financing institutions. In particular, we restate the following recommendations; governments should (1) ensure an enabling legal–procedural environment; and (2) prepare delegated management contracts systematically; (3) private partners should render themselves dispensable through capacity building of national managerial staff and by initiating sustainable financing mechanisms; (4) governments and private partners alike should respect human rights and build coalitions with communities; (5) governments, private partners and funders should strive to delegate non-core management tasks, such as tourist guiding and reception, community development and research, to specialized locally based individuals and organizations

### **2. On a favourable environment and meeting the 30% PA target**

- Importance of focusing on CA area already under conservation
- The problem is not quantity (area), but quality
- Increase funding, improve management, and focus (limited) resources on more limited areas (strategic retreat).
- A positive objective that the countries of the region could promote at the international level through advocacy that is at least as strong as that relating to climate change (= opportunity for

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- countries to appear in a positive, courageous, ambitious light, etc.).
- But obviously it is not about 30% National Parks and Wildlife Reserves: it has to be based on the "Other Effective Conservation Measures per Area" (OECMS)
- Definition according to CBD (decision CBD/COP/DEC/14/8 of November 2018, assumed to be known by all countries in the region) = "a geographically delimited area, other than a protected area, that is regulated and managed so as to achieve positive and sustainable long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biological diversity, including associated ecosystem functions and services and, where appropriate, locally relevant cultural, spiritual, socio-economic and other values"
- Through AMCEZs (e.g. linked to HCV), it is possible to strengthen partnerships between conservation actors (PA managers, NGOs) and private forest managers such as FSC concessionaires (e.g. PROGEPP and PROLAB), and some Cynthetic Interest Areas.
- Integration of PAs into landscapes. A resource:  
[https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/quest-ce\\_qui\\_compte\\_web\\_07sep2021.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/quest-ce_qui_compte_web_07sep2021.pdf)

### 3. On tourism development in CA HAs

Since the setting up of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership in 2002, the development of ecotourism in the Congo Basin has been extremely limited relative to ecotourism development around major protected areas in East and Southern Africa. The reasons for this lack of development have been discussed by the the CBFP and other forums on a regular basis and a number of key reports seeking to address this lack of progress have been prepared by different parties (Moman 2006; Telfer 2020; xxxx).

It is essential that the CBFP continue to advocate for the necessary enabling conditions to be created by governments, conservation organisations, donors so that the private sector and local communities can actively consider setting up ecotourism enterprises in the region.

Governments and Partners have a critical role in creating political goodwill if they want to use this dormant resource for economic development especially for marginalised communities living near remote forest areas where there are few other opportunities for employment and advancement. Recommendations to overcome key challenges include holding a subject-related presidential summit, easing access to visas, and removing barriers to private aviation. If implemented, such steps could greatly improve the competitiveness of the region and accelerate the development of ecotourism as a viable economic sector also in a challenging political context.

There are three prerequisites for tourism development: quality attractions, good accommodation, and easy access. The central African rainforest countries have incredible attractions, but very little accommodation and very limited to no access. However, over that last decade, there have been several private investors that have taken tentative steps toward pioneering professional ecotourism in Gabon, Republic of Congo, and Central African Republic. These include the Congo Conservation Company's investments in Ozala; their upcoming PPP with WCS/USAID, TNS, Parc de Virunga.

It is important to recognize that these private businesses are key for sustainable economic development, creating the nascent hospitality industry and marketing tourism products to compete with other destinations in the world.

The Stream Call for the promotion of ecotourism development, national governments in the region need strong policy frameworks, international marketing strategies, and the alignment of the policies of relevant

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government departments and their actions. The experts all agreed that easing visa requirements, improving access, and marketing the African rainforests are top priorities to accelerate investment and ecotourism development. To generate the required political support, regional partners should convene a presidential summit to promote the benefits of tourism, and to highlight the prerequisites and the concrete steps for accelerating ecotourism development in their countries. Successful leaders could commit to removing hindrances to tourism development and supporting helpful legislation such as prioritizing favorable immigration policy, open sky policies, and fiscal incentives through the provision of tax relief to pioneer investors. A high-level regional group should be formed to initiate the required prerequisites and facilitate legislation that would remove key obstacles to ecotourism development.

It is clear that there are still many challenges to jump starting tourism in the Congo Basin. We call on renewed efforts from political leaders to work at creating a break through at the next CBFP, which will greatly improve the competitiveness of the region and accelerate the development of ecotourism as a viable economic sector. As a catalyst we call on an ecotourism panel to be held during CBFP bringing together appropriate stakeholders.

#### 4. How to accelerate community development and ensure respect for human rights around PAs?

##### Some highlights:

- Conclusion on Human Rights: Human rights-based conservation. The Stream supports a conservation that is sensitive to people's rights to use and access natural resources. This is very new for protected areas in Central Africa - lots of people are developing them from scratch and this is important to have some kind of standard and information exchange on this. Developing regional standards for GRMs on the basis of pilot implementation in a few sites would be very good.
- A conclusion on community involvement / community conservation: Exploring new and innovative governance mechanisms for protected areas that formally define a decision making role for local communities and indigenous peoples - a sort of PPP between the state/local communities. Examples exist in southern Africa Une conclusion sur l'implication des privés.
- A conclusion on private involvement.

##### **Some recommendations :**

**Recommendation 1 :** Promoting the valorisation and integration of this knowledge and practices in biodiversity conservation policies and programmes and in the management plans of protected areas in the Basin would contribute to an inclusive management of biodiversity and ensure a better involvement of PACLs in conservation initiatives.

**Recommendation 2 :** Recommendation 2: Promote respect for the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of LACs in the development and implementation of biodiversity conservation programmes to avoid numerous conflicts around PAs.

**Recommendation 3 :** Recommendation 3: Governments and partners should support and monitor strong social protection mechanisms to support rights-based approaches. At least, social protection mechanisms should include: Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC/CLIP); the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM); the provision of adequate support to take appropriate 'preventive' and 'responsive' actions to all allegations and human rights violations; at regional and national level, governments and partners should strengthen i) the monitoring of allegations of violations and incidents, ii) the capacity to conduct independent, prompt and credible investigations ('stand-by / surge capacity') and to conduct

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coordinated and strategic communication among conservation partners iii) the capacity to ensure regular exchanges of experience, aimed at the harmonisation and progressive adaptation of normative, contractual or doctrinal frameworks to the different legal and operational contexts of the sub-region, iv) as well as the implementation of a systematic training system suitable for different types of conservation staff (and partners). At the site level, it will also be necessary to i) strengthen or set up coordination, alert and community mediation mechanisms adapted to the operational context and the means allocated to each site; ii) strengthen the protection of victims and witnesses of incidents and violations caused by protected area staff, iii) further support access to justice for victims as well as the actions of the criminal justice system and particularly of prosecutors - the main vector for deterrence but also for the judicial treatment of proven violations. It is proposed that an explicit "protection of civilians and human rights" strategy be developed and implemented in PAs simultaneously at the regional level for the core actions of prevention, monitoring, investigation and strategic communication, and at the KLCD level for the protection of local communities and indigenous peoples, as well as disciplinary and judicial responses to incidents.

### Recommendations for COP 15

- Importance of emphasizing on CA area already under conservation
  - Problem is not quantity (area), but quality
  - Increase funding, improve management, and focus (limited) resources on more limited areas (strategic retreat).
1. To meet the States' commitment to acquire a Protected Area network representing the main ecosystems (green and blue) on 30% of their national territory, and to be able to bear the costs, CBFP members encourage the development of new strategies and new financing mechanisms based in particular on partnership and the delegation of management to the private market sector (hunting and tourism concessionaires, logging and tourism companies, etc.), The CBFP members encourage the development of new strategies and financing mechanisms based in particular on partnership and delegation of management to the private market sector (hunting and tourism concessionaires, logging, agricultural and mining concessionaires, and communal forest managers) and non-market sector (public managers and conservation NGOs), and on new opportunities regarding payments for environmental services (biodiversity, carbon, water).
  2. To enable rapid development of the various tourism segments within the multiple Central African ecosystems, CBFP members encourage States to facilitate the issuing of visas, to ease access to protected area complexes for all, to free up air traffic for small private operators, to facilitate and secure private investment in accommodation and tourism services within the framework of long-term partnerships, to offer tax benefits to investors in difficult areas and to strengthen the safety of goods and people.
  3. To allow better integration of protected areas into their economic and social environment and to limit the emergence of conflicts between stakeholders, neighbouring populations and wildlife, CBFP members encourage States to develop "landscape" approaches integrating central and decentralised public stakeholders, and private concessionaires and managers of forest and ecologically fragile areas, in a coordinated mechanism of territorial governance.



*Stream 2 Session*

**Biodiversity - Future of Protected Areas in Central Africa  
Recommendations**

***(i) With regard to the alignment of conservation area surfaces with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) target of 30% conservation areas by 2030 (Recommendations for COP15), COMIFAC Member States are invited to:***

- study the social impacts of the 30x30 strategy, particularly on indigenous and local communities;
- evaluate the opportunity of the 30x30 strategy to formalise community lands as important areas for forest conservation;
- Increase funding, improve management, and focus the few resources on more limited areas (strategic retreat) to improve the effectiveness of protected area management.
- Better coordinate various national initiatives/efforts towards the 30x30 goal

***(ii) With regard to effective management models and sustainable financing of Protected Areas in Central Africa, COMIFAC Member States are invited to***

- adapt management models to their needs and specificities;
- respect human rights and create coalitions with communities;
- Seek innovative models to capitalise, recognise and integrate local natural resource governance structures into decision-making and sustainable development;
- diversify sustainable financing initiatives for protected areas;
- Improve legal and procedural environment

***(iii) Concerning institutional capacity building, COMIFAC member states are invited to:***

- Ensure as a priority the functional and operational networking of PA agencies in Central Africa.
- Define a governance pillar standard to be achieved for at least two or three PA agencies in Central Africa
- Create a sub-regional centre of excellence for biodiversity in the Central African forest, bringing together all the good practices and regional capitalisation of experience in the management of Protected Areas.
- Strengthen at the relevant sub-regional, national and territorial levels the role of competent territorial authorities in the governance of protected areas and OECM
- Strengthen the capacity of civil society around protected areas to support sustainable development of natural resources.

***(iv) With regard to the development of eco-tourism in Central African protected areas, COMIFAC Member States are encouraged to rapidly develop the various tourism segments within the multiple ecosystems of Central Africa:***

- Improve the business climate in the tourism sector, in particular by granting tourist visas (introduce electronic visas);
- Create road and air infrastructure to facilitate tourist access to protected area complexes;
- Facilitate and secure private investment in accommodation and tourist services in the framework of long-term partnerships,
- offer fiscal advantages to investors in difficult areas and to reinforce the security of goods and people.

## Annex II: Thematic Streams

### Stream 2: Final Conclusions

- create a sub-regional ecotourism quality label for tourism operators in and around protected areas and other zonal conservation measures (OECM).

***(v) Concerning community development and respect for human rights in and around protected areas in order to allow better integration of protected areas into their economic and social environment and to limit conflicts between stakeholders, local populations and wildlife, COMIFAC Member States are encouraged to:***

- put the human factor at the centre of conservation, including demographic forecasting, and facilitate a sub-regional platform for exchange
- set up a verification mechanism that allows for the joint observation of possible allegations of human rights violations on the one hand, and to decide jointly (Donor, State and other accused actor) on corrective measures on the other hand;
- Capitalise on existing approaches to community development and human rights in and around protected areas.
- Promote respect for the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) in the development and implementation of biodiversity conservation programmes;
- Adopt a human rights compliance framework for conservation at the appropriate regional level.
- Share knowledge and experience on human-wildlife conflict prevention and management.
- Develop a sub-regional platform to manage human-wildlife conflicts: Countries in Central Africa should consider the issue as urgent for the future of biodiversity, and create a sub-regional platform to share knowledge and experiences in order to have information at the same level.





## **Forest Landscape Restoration: Opportunities and Challenges in the Congo Basin (COMIFAC) countries**

To address development/socio-economic challenges as well as drivers of deforestation and increasing forest degradation, restoration can play an important role in the Congo Basin.

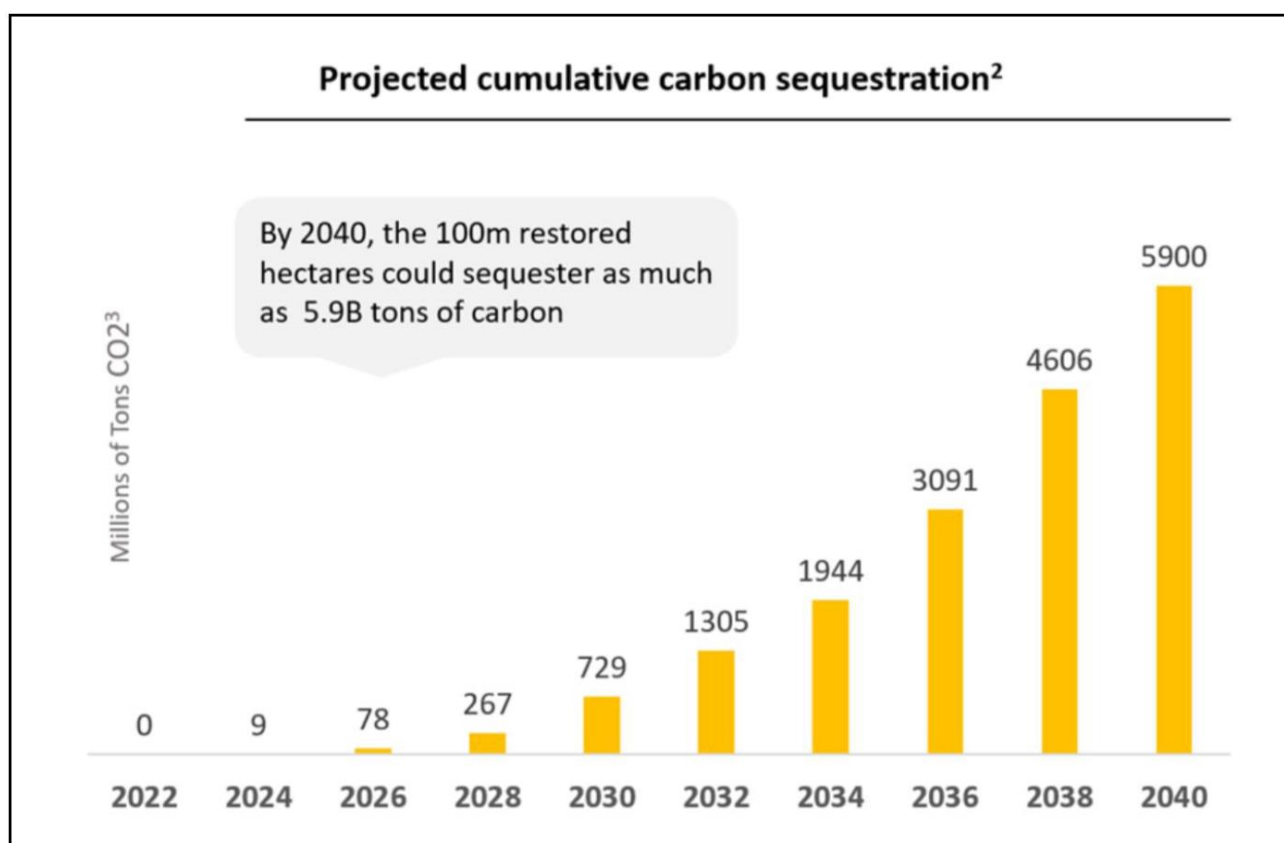
In the last decade, Africa continued an upward trajectory of deforestation and degradation with a net annual forest loss of 3.94 million ha from 2010-2020 (FAO, 2021). As much as 65% of productive land in Africa is in different states of degradation. As a consequence, desertification further increases and already affects 45% of Africa's entire land area. The annual global cost of land degradation as a result of land use/cover change (LUCC) and land degrading management practices on static crop and grazing land are estimated to range from 300 to 490 billion USD (Nkonya et al., 2016; UNCCD, 2013; Degroot et al., 2013). Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) accounts for the largest share or 22% of this. Estimates of the cost of taking action against land degradation suggest that on average, one US dollar investment into restoration of degraded land returns five US dollars (Nkonya et al., 2016).

The area of evergreen and semi-deciduous forests in Central Africa was estimated at about 200 million ha in January 2020 (Dalimier et al. 2022), of which 184.7 million ha without any visible signs of disturbance (Vancutsem et al. 2020). Overall, almost 9 per cent of the area of tropical rainforests in Central Africa has disappeared since 2000, i.e. 18 million ha.

Degraded forests in Central Africa represent about 7% of the remaining TMF area (up to 30% if we consider forests located on the edge of disturbed areas), and about 40% of all forest disturbances (deforestation, regeneration and degradation).

The analysis of the evolution shows a considerable increase in the annual rate of disturbance in the tropical rainforests of Central Africa over the last five years (2015-2020): it is indeed 1.79 million ha per year while it was only 1.36 million ha in the previous decade (2005-2015)

Against this background, African governments have made ambitious voluntary restoration commitments. In 2015, the regional African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) was launched to restore 100 million hectares (ha) of degraded forest and land by 2030. The first phase of AFR100 garnered pledges of almost 128 million hectares from 32 African countries: COMIFAC countries have pledged a total of 30.9 million hectares to the AFR100, which adds up to about a quarter of the current total pledge to AFR100. These Central African commitments represent 24% of global commitments and 28% of African countries' commitments under the Bonn challenges. The projected cumulative carbon sequestration potential for AFR100 is up to 5.9 billion tons of carbon up to 2040, see table below:



While the arguments and the potential of forest landscape restoration seem compelling and have gathered significant momentum and support on a global level, challenges for implementing the ambitious targets in the Congo Basin are manifold and persistent. The following topics have been identified by many as the key issues that need to be addressed not just for restoration but to embark on a sustainable path of development in the region:

- Address drivers of forest and land degradation: energy demand (fuelwood), agriculture (subsistence, transhumance, plantations), resource extraction (incl. artisanal logging), population pressure
- Land and Forest Governance: land tenure – who owns the land where restoration is done?
- Strengthen institutions (capacity development), focus on local implementing organizations and extension providers
- Needs of growing (urban) population (energy and food)
- Access to finance: Mobilizing different public and private finance for different for restoration costs
- Monitoring restoration progress: existing monitoring frameworks and experiences

The complex and diverse realities on the ground in the Congo Basin countries will require strong political will, concerted efforts on all levels and long-term financial commitments both from national governments and the international community to implement ambitious restoration targets.

Countries have repeatedly called for strengthened coordination and support to enable implementation of forest landscape restoration targets, most notably in the

## Annex II: Thematic Streams

### Stream 3: Impulse Paper

1. **Kigali Declaration (2016)** and main conclusions of the Extraordinary Council of COMIFAC Ministers of March 2018 on “Common Resource Mobilization Strategy for the implementation of countries' commitments to the Bonn Challenge”.
2. **Conclusions of the Extraordinary Council of COMIFAC Ministers** of March 2018 on Common Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the implementation of countries' commitments to the Bonn Challenge. A major recommendation of the COMIFAC Council of Ministers was to propose an Investment Programme for Landscape Restoration in Central Africa as part of the Bonn Challenge. The commitment of countries to pool GEF and GCF funds and the Adaptation Fund.

To complement calls for additional financial support and strengthen implementation capacities, a range of potential opportunities for forest and landscape restoration in the Congo Basin have been identified:

1. **Leverage existing partnership such as CBFP and AFR100** to improve access to finance and implement progress in the context of forest and landscape restoration objectives.
2. **Harness restoration potential around protected areas** to reduce pressure on remaining high conservation value areas and tap into additional resources for carbon removals through forest landscape restoration in the Congo Basin countries
3. **Take a smart approach for land-use planning** with a focus on participatory, community-based and landscape approaches that will address land tenure and sustainable forest management
4. **Focus on increasing agricultural production on existing arable land** through the introduction of sustainable agricultural practices and agro-forestry
5. **Address energy demands** of a growing population through sustainable production of fuel wood, including small-scale, high turn-over plantations and agro-forestry
6. **Strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration** on national, regional and local level between forestry, water, agriculture, planning, etc. involving regional actors such as the CEEAC to coordinate efforts

**The Libreville Meeting of the Parties** is a welcome opportunity to reaffirm political support to AFR100, to continue reflection on how to strengthen implementation and coordination, and to start discussions on a programmatic proposal that would allow for the absorption of the resources envisaged to be mobilised.

#### **About AFR100**

AFR100 (the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative) is a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030. AFR100 contributes to the Bonn Challenge, the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI), the African Union Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals and other targets.

With contributions from AFR100 (Mamadou Diakithé, AUDA-NEPAD, Charles Karangwa, IUCN, Susanne Wallenoeffler, GIZ) and Richard EBA'A ATYI, CIFOR

## Annex II: Thematic Streams

### Stream 3: Impulse Paper

#### ANNEX: **AFR100 pledges of Congo Basin (COMIFAC) countries**

	Country	AFR100 Pledge (mio ha)	Year	Bonn Challenge pledge
1.	Angola	-	-	
2.	Burundi	2 mio ha	2015	2 mio ha
3.	Cameroon	12 mio ha	2017	12 mio ha
4.	RCA (Central African Republic)	3.5 mio ha	2016	3,5 mio ha
5.	Tchad	1.4 mio ha	2017	5 mio ha (2017)
6.	Congo Brazzaville	2 mio ha	2016	2 mio ha
7.	RCD (Democratic Republic of Congo)	8 mio ha	2016	8 mio ha
8.	Gabun	-	-	-
9.	Equatorial Guinea			-
10.	Rwanda	2 mio ha	2011	2 mio ha
11.	Sao Tomé et Príncipe			-
	Total pledges of COMIFAC countries	30.9 mio ha		34,5 mio ha

See: [AFR100](#) | and [Current pledges | Bonchallenge \(bonchallenge.org\)](#)

### **Recommendations from Stream 3**

## **"Forest Landscape Restoration: Opportunities and Challenges in Central Africa"**

The parties are invited to:

- Define and implement a regulatory and jurisdictional FLR framework and strategy, including land tenure with property and land use rights, as a prerequisite for the implementation of FLR, based on a clear national definition of what this approach entails, building on existing regional platforms and initiatives such as AFR100 and the Bonn Challenge to define a framework and scale up progress.
- Adopt participatory and bottom-up approaches that include local communities, based on a "collective vision", participatory land-use planning and local consultation platforms involving all stakeholders
- Strengthen the integration of sustainable agricultural practices into the FLR approach to strengthen the food security aspect and design business models based on value chain development.
- Improve access to finance for FLR through the development of long-term financial mechanisms: Build on existing partnerships to improve access to finance and implement progress
- Harness the potential for restoration around protected areas to reduce pressure on remaining high conservation value areas
- Adopt a smart approach to land-use planning with an emphasis on participatory, community and landscape approaches that will address land tenure and sustainable forest management
- Focus on increasing agricultural production on existing arable land through the introduction of sustainable agricultural practices and agroforestry
- Meet the energy demands of a growing population through sustainable fuelwood production, including small-scale high rotation plantations and agroforestry
- Strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration at national, regional and local levels between forestry, water, agriculture, planning, etc.
- Integrate restoration into the international climate and biodiversity budget and private sector investments in Central Africa.
- Build on the Kigali Declaration (2016) and the main conclusions of the COMIFAC Extraordinary Council of Ministers of March 2018 on the "Common Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the Implementation of Countries' Commitments in the Bonn Challenge", one of whose main recommendations was to propose an investment programme for landscape restoration in Central Africa.
- Ensure continuous knowledge sharing and capacity building on FLR at all levels and continuous integration of supporting research results into practice.

## Annex III: Side Events

CAFI, FAO - Évaluation de la déforestation et de la dégradation des forêts et des facteurs directs associés à l'aide de SEPAL - Résultats et perspectives

## Annex III: Side Events



Organisation des Nations Unies  
pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

RESUMÉ PBFC #RDP19 Side Event, 7 Juillet 17h30-19h00

## Évaluation de la déforestation et de la dégradation des forêts et des facteurs directs associés à l'aide de SEPAL - Résultats et perspectives

Total nombre de participants: 87 (50 en salle et 37 en virtuel)

La déforestation et la dégradation des forêts sont des processus complexes qui transcendent les frontières et dont les causes directes et sous-jacentes sont nombreuses. Pour élaborer des politiques et mener des actions afin de lutter contre la perte des forêts et réduire les émissions de carbone associées, il est important de bien comprendre où et comment les moteurs anthropiques amènent à la perturbation des forêts du Bassin du Congo.

Avec l'appui de l'initiative pour les forêts d'Afrique Centrale (CAFI) la FAO a mis au point une méthode mondiale, standard et à grande échelle d'estimation de la dynamique des forêts pour évaluer les changements de couvert forestier et quantifier les facteurs directs de déforestation et de dégradation des forêts. Rendez-vous au site web <https://congo.dddafrica.info> pour toutes les informations du programme.

Cette méthode a été pilotée dans six pays d'Afrique centrale, en s'appuyant sur une approche de collaboration, où experts nationaux, instituts de recherche mondiaux et société civile travaillent ensemble pour mettre en commun des ressources et des données pour apporter des éléments techniques probants et parvenir à une vision commune sur les tendances et facteurs directs des perturbations forestières.

Les objectifs du projet, ainsi que la méthodologie, les résultats et les messages clés ont été présentés (pdf est disponible par [ce lien](#); l'enregistrement de la session zoom est disponible ici).

### Messages clés:

1. Les tendances de déforestation et dégradation dans le Bassin du Congo ne sont pas en hausse dans la période 2015-2020 comme attendue, compte tenu des pressions comme l'augmentation de la population. Malgré cela, les perturbations forestières restent élevées : nous observons plus de 2.2 millions d'hectares de déforestation dans les 5 années de l'étude, et 1,1 million d'hectares de nouvelles dégradation, ce qui reste des superficies importantes.
2. En termes de moteurs observés par l'interprétation visuelle des experts, le complexe rural (identifiable par la présence simultanée de terrains cultivés, des routes, des villages) est le moteur qui contribue le plus à la déforestation et dégradation. Nous évaluons les moteurs directs, visibles par satellite (agriculture artisanale et industrielle, village et peuplements, infrastructure, foresterie artisanale et industrielle, mine artisanale et industrielle). Il existe certainement d'autres moteurs sous-jacents comme les forces économiques extérieures, le changement climatique, la pandémie COVID et les insécurités et conflits qui ne sont pas évalués dans le contexte d'analyses d'images.

### **Annex III: Side Events**

*CAFI, FAO - Évaluation de la déforestation et de la dégradation des forêts et des facteurs directs associés à l'aide de SEPAL - Résultats et perspectives*

3. Le programme produit des outils et des données gratuits, libres et ouverts. Les résultats sont produits au niveau régional, mais peuvent aussi être extraits, validés et valorisés par les pays avec les outils mis à disposition.

#### **Conclusions**

1. Il est essentiel d'essayer de mieux comprendre les dynamiques observées, avec des données concrètes comme les sondages de terrain et études socio-économiques sont indispensables pour la validation des conclusions des analyses satellitaires.
2. L'importance du suivi du couvert forestier reste essentielle, et de nouvelles analyses sont importantes pour valider la tendance après 2020.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-rdp/SEPAL-R%C3%A9sultats.html>***

### Annex III: Side Events

CBFP, Fern, CAFI - Table-Ronde de Haut-Niveau sur un partenariat inclusif avec l'Union européenne pour lutter contre la déforestation et promouvoir le développement durable dans le bassin du Congo



**Le 6 juillet 2022, en marge de la 19e Réunion des Parties du Partenariat des Forêts du bassin du Congo (PFBC), la Facilitation du PFBC, en collaboration avec Fern et l'Initiative pour la Forêt de l'Afrique centrale (CAFI) ont organisé une Table-Ronde de Haut-Niveau sur un partenariat inclusif avec l'Union européenne pour lutter contre la déforestation et promouvoir le développement durable dans le bassin du Congo.**

La table-ronde a rassemblé des représentants et représentantes des institutions européennes (Commission et Parlement), des Etats membres et élus de l'Union européenne (UE). L'objectif de cette rencontre était de comprendre les conséquences du projet de règlement européen sur les produits exempts de déforestation pour les pays riverains du bassin du Congo. Il s'agissait également de promouvoir un dialogue sur les approches possibles pour un partenariat entre les pays de la sous-région et l'Union européenne qui tiennent également compte des droits et besoins des populations locales ainsi que des petits producteurs dans les politiques de lutte contre la déforestation.

#### **Relever l'ambition et renforcer la coopération de l'Union européenne face aux défis de la déforestation mondiale**

Dans un souci de réduire au minimum la déforestation et la dégradation des forêts dont l'UE est responsable, la Commission européenne a publié en novembre 2019, un projet de règlement visant à mettre fin à l'importation de produits liés à la déforestation, à savoir le soja, la viande bovine, l'huile de palme, le bois, le cacao et le café. Le règlement est actuellement débattu en « trilogie » par le Parlement européen, les Etats-Membres de l'UE et la Commission, ces institutions ayant souhaité favoriser dans un premier temps un compromis sur les produits dont elle est un consommateur majeur. Les produits relevant du champ d'application du projet de règlement ne seront pas autorisés à entrer sur le marché de l'UE s'ils ont été produits sur des terres ayant fait l'objet d'une déforestation après la date butoir du 31 décembre 2020.

Par ailleurs, la Commission et les Etats-membres se sont engagés à intensifier le dialogue avec d'autres marchés importants tels que la Chine et les Etats-Unis et de renforcer sa politique de coopération pour s'assurer que les pays partenaires de l'UE sont capables de tirer parti des nouvelles règles de l'UE relatives à la déforestation. Le règlement a constitué un dossier prioritaire de la Présidence française de l'UE. Celle-ci s'est appuyée sur sa propre expérience relative à l'élaboration d'une stratégie nationale sur la déforestation importée dans laquelle la coopération avec les pays producteurs est centrale.

Du côté des élus et élues de l'UE, la prise de conscience grandissante de la responsabilité de l'UE dans la déforestation en Afrique et en Amérique latine est à saluer. Toutefois, les nouvelles règles de l'UE devront garantir le respect des droits des populations autochtones ainsi que ceux des petits producteurs et en particulier des femmes dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement. Le maintien des Accords de Partenariat Volontaire du plan d'action FLEGT comme structure de dialogue doit faire partie des nouvelles priorités de l'UE. Le gouvernement allemand par exemple pourrait apporter aux pays producteurs de bois dans l'amélioration de la gouvernance forestière et leurs efforts de reboisement. Pour une institution sur le PFBC, il est essentiel de permettre aux pays du bassin du Congo d'obtenir un « juste prix »



### **Annex III: Side Events**

*CBFP, Fern, CAFI* - Table-Ronde de Haut-Niveau sur un partenariat inclusif avec l'Union européenne pour lutter contre la déforestation et promouvoir le développement durable dans le bassin du Congo

#### **Une contextualisation et une implication nécessaires des pays partenaires et des autres parties prenantes dans les efforts de l'UE**

Pour l'ensemble des parties prenantes, la déforestation n'est pas un concept à globaliser et doit être précisé dans chaque contexte de production avec l'implication des acteurs au niveau national. Les forêts étant très différentes dans le monde, toute définition unique risquerait d'occulter les spécificités géographiques en particulier celles du bassin du Congo. Il faudrait ainsi adapter la définition des forêts aux différentes zones écologiques de la zone intertropicale en remplaçant par exemple « forêt primaire » par « forêt naturelle ».

Les aspirations des pays riverains à la souveraineté alimentaire et à une gestion durable des ressources forestières doivent être respectées et soutenues. Une approche punitive et restrictive par exemple à travers l'extension du règlement aux savanes d'Afrique centrale pourrait entraîner des conséquences négatives sur les réformes nationales destinées à concilier protection et exploitation raisonnée des forêts et des terres.

Les représentants de la société civile et des populations autochtones ont salué l'élaboration par l'UE de nouvelles règles pour lutter contre la déforestation, qui poursuit ainsi son rôle pionnier dans la protection de l'environnement. Cependant, les institutions européennes devraient favoriser le dialogue plutôt que la coercition. Ainsi, il serait hasardeux d'impulser de nouvelles règles sans la participation des communautés forestières et leur assentiment car le concept de zéro déforestation peut prêter à confusion et se heurter aux stratégies locales et individuelles de lutte contre la pauvreté. Enfin, de possibles effets pervers ne sont pas à ignorer, comme la fuite des produits vers des marchés moins regardants.

S'agissant du secteur privé, des efforts pour mettre en place des outils pour la diligence raisonnée et la traçabilité sont en cours depuis plusieurs années et relativement matures. L'appui aux Etats et aux entreprises dans la création de plans d'aménagement du territoire et de développement qui tiennent compte du couvert forestier tout en développant l'économie devrait être prioritaire.

#### **Tirer les enseignements des initiatives existantes et saisir les opportunités nouvelles**

Une réflexion sur les leçons apprises des initiatives existantes est nécessaire pour s'assurer d'un impact positif du nouveau règlement. Elle permettra de prévenir tout effet pervers sur les politiques et réformes environnementales en cours notamment sur les APV qui seront confrontés à des exigences supplémentaires quant à la durabilité du bois et l'accès sur le marché européen.

Des opportunités existent néanmoins pour renforcer les instruments de gouvernance des forêts existants pour les rendre plus performants et mieux s'arriver sur les priorités de développement des pays concernés.

Les panélistes et l'assistance ont encouragé les organisateurs dont Fern à poursuivre ces échanges au niveau européen afin d'intégrer la parole des pays du bassin du Congo. Il pourrait y avoir un risque de lassitude face à la multiplication des outils et le rôle limité des acteurs non européens dans leur élaboration.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-partenaires/RDP19-PFBC-Event-FERN-CAFI.html>***

### Annex III: Side Events

CBFP - High-Level Roundtable on Financing: Development Banks, Climate/Biodiversity Funds and Carbon Market Mechanism on "Fair Deal" for the Protection of Central African Forests



## **Mechanism, Coordination of Financing for the Protection of Tropical Forests in Central Africa**

### **High-Level Roundtable on Financing: Development Banks, Climate/Biodiversity Funds and Carbon Market Mechanism on "Fair Deal" for the Protection of Central African Forests**

**Welcome and introductory note: Honourable Dr. Christian Ruck**, Goodwill Ambassador and CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany.

**Panellists:** Development Banks, Climate, Biodiversity and Forest Protection Funds: CAFI, AfDB, AFD, Winrock International, KFW

**Moderator:** **Mr. Maxime Nzita Nganga Di Mavambu**, Chef de Mission Technical Assistance Regional ECOFAC VI, CBFP Ex Co-Facilitator (Resource person)

**Rapporteur:** **Jean Bakouma**, Director of Conservation, WWF Congo Basin

#### **Preliminary report.**

The High-Level Meeting on the International Financial Mechanism for Biodiversity was held on 5-6 July 2022 in Libreville, Gabon. The session focused on four issues:

- Exchange on instruments to improve financial coordination and access modalities.
- Mechanisms, arrangements and conditions for the "Fair Deal" to ensure permanent and adequate climate and biodiversity finance and policy commitments for Central African ecosystems.
- Discuss the frameworks, conditions and incentives for attracting private investment in sustainable development and forest protection.
- Examine options for combining the carbon market on the one hand and public financing techniques and development assistance on the other.

The panel on 5 July brought together CAFI, AfDB, AFD and the EU, followed on 6 July by KFW and Winrock.

Donor actions in the Congo Basin forests are chaotic. In the Congo Basin there are 35 funding initiatives in total, including a need for coordination. The point is to reflect on the best coordination mechanism and also on the PES and their indicators; to examine which mechanisms are needed to secure the private sector.

Following this observation by all the panellists, some possible solutions were outlined.

- Need for an integrated coordination mechanism. We need a fundraising manager. There is also the problem of the credit market. Streamlining the credit process is important. According to Philippe Mayeux, from the EU, this is not a new issue, and that is why OFAC was launched, and following this launch, big investors joined.
- According to AFD, the solution lies at two levels on the programmatic level: There is a database of investors, but it is not well known. So, it requires a bit of proactivity for donors before committing themselves. Donors need to go and look at this database.

### Annex III: Side Events

#### CBFP - High-Level Roundtable on Financing: Development Banks, Climate/Biodiversity Funds and Carbon Market Mechanism on "Fair Deal" for the Protection of Central African Forests

- As far as CAFI is concerned, this coordination must take place within the college of donors. It is not just a database. Coordination takes a lot of time. If the CBFP wants to coordinate donors, resources must be made available, and therefore coordination groups must be set up in the capitals. For someone to take the lead on coordination, the coordination team needs a mandate.
- For the AfDB, we need to recognize the responsibility of countries and partners, and we need to find a balance. The Bank needs to recognize that coordination has a cost and requires time and patience to coordinate. Therefore, donors must accept this cost.
- The coordination must be done at two levels: at the regional level, and then at the national level because implementation takes place on the ground in the countries. At the AfDB, we think that this coordination must be carried out by the countries, but we must recognize that some countries do not have this capacity, hence the need to maintain a regional level of coordination to support countries lacking capacity. If coordination must take place, it should be carried out by the most appropriate regional institution combined with country coordination.
- The coordination must be carried out throughout the project cycle. How do we fit into a coordinated approach at the operational level?
- The first thing to do is to agree on what exists. Map and evaluate the funds. How do we take into account thematic coordination, the ADB can take the lead on some themes.
- The question of the coordinator's mandate: complementarity, division, subsidiarity, comparative advantage.
- For the AFD, a distinction must be made between operational and political coordination. The Glasgow "Pledge" provides guidelines for political coordination. CAFI is a coordination structure, as well as COMIFAC, and given the importance of CBFP, the college of donors should allow this coordination so that the Congo Basin's voice can be heard. The CAFI coordination model should also be explored.
- Two possible options. For example, ICRAF has set up CIGAR, a hybrid coordination mechanism that enhances thematic and financial coordination.
- The first option is to transform coordination into a secretariat.
- Countries give a mandate, just as ECCAS gave a mandate to COMIFAC.
- Coordination must also be part of the high-level political dialogue.
- There are also other issues, for example:
- Intact forests are not the objectives of REDD+ and yet if ecosystems (their services) are not paid for, we will not protect.
- There is a perspective of policy dialogue in relation to payment for conservation efforts if ecosystems are to be protected.
- Regarding the second question, it should be noted that some countries like Gabon wish to get other rewards apart from the REDD+ mechanism. Therefore, the issue is how to organize fair deal financing mechanisms.
- CAFI completes bilateral flows and has worked on investment plans, there is a desire from donors to strengthen efficiency and increase verification capacity. There are interesting indications that deforestation is stabilizing. There are already many results, and we can do better in terms of monitoring and evaluation. CAFI's trajectory needs to be changed to focus on performance and results.
- In Gabon we have a first deal, but the amount granted is insufficient. Measuring carbon is easier than measuring biodiversity. We need more results and more capacity.
- How to link this to our intervention, CAFI's intervention.
- First lesson: Data is super-important. The only country that has reliable data is Gabon. There are one or two countries which have submitted reference levels but there are still many countries missing. The priority is to build up the region to benefit from climate finance.
- Maybe Central Africa needs a little bit different financing. All the issues on IFLs (Intact Forest Landscapes) allowing countries to remain with high forest cover must be taken into account by donors.

## Annex III: Side Events

### CBFP - High-Level Roundtable on Financing: Development Banks, Climate/Biodiversity Funds and Carbon Market Mechanism on "Fair Deal" for the Protection of Central African Forests

- In countries where there is very little to reduce it is difficult, a simple concession increases deforestation. Countries need development but there is a need to demonstrate political commitment.
- Another issue is absorption capacity. There are many partners, and we want to mobilize money, we need a lot of coordination and absorption capacity in the countries.
- In conclusion, there are prerequisites: reliable data, verification, and political commitment.
- China has developed contextualized standards.
- Behind the "Fair Deal" is carbon finance.
- At the AfDB, 40% of the Bank's commitments are climate finance, but the AfDB is a bit sceptical about the sustainability of some pledges. When we talk about PES (payment for ecosystem services) or carbon, what is important is the governance and transparency of the market. How to access it? Is it a specific market or a classic supply-demand market?
- How can we ensure that states have the minimum capacity to operate in these carbon markets, whose capacity to operate is questionable? How can development aid be useful?
- Can't we lighten the rules to facilitate access to climate finance?
- Put rules before capacities in order to be able to negotiate with other actors.
- If we can use official development assistance to strengthen States, it can help.
- According to AFD, 3 points must be considered:
- The first is the link between climate and biodiversity, e.g., LFIs are not taken into account in the climate, with potential drift due to the fact that biodiversity is not taken into account.
- The second point is to refer to what Gabon is doing in terms of climate? Can we find a deviant model given the specificities of the CB? Develop specific Congo Basin models and reflect on the prevailing model.
- The third point is to know whether we can imagine that this carbon finance is a better integrated element in macro-economic development models. Better integration of carbon finance would integrate the issue of the country's debt. It is therefore possible to broaden the spectrum of carbon finance and to increase its importance in development.

#### **Link political and economic interest with development and debt.**

However, the issue of biodiversity is difficult to track in terms of metrics.

As far as WCS is concerned, there is no incentive to protect IFLs. Nobody is paying for LFIs. WCS is developing an initiative which idea is to create a small portfolio of projects in order to demonstrate that projects related to the protection of LFIs exist. Pilot sites are needed, what is the unit that will be measured?

#### **Second point**

- Coordination with private finance like Bezos must be revisited.
- Strengthen the role of forests in climate finance and biodiversity finance.
- We need to review the intervention frameworks at the national level. We need to start from what exists in countries. We should look for ways to actively manage forests apart from protected areas.
- Finance for permanence. It's a way, but there are conditions to be met. We're going to start working with Gabon.
- We have 8 to 10 years to change the trajectory and the IFLs, which is at least 30% of the solution. In the framework of the GEF, more than 300 million USD are dedicated to LFIs. There is interest in IFLs in countries with high forest cover and low deforestation. We can imagine a workshop under the GEF.
- The drifting model: why we are forgetting about climate microfinance. The financing model that will reach the community level is inspired by microfinance, which should reach the communities, this could be a good model.
- For the CBFP, the COMIFAC countries are struggling to access funding because all the measurement

### Annex III: Side Events

#### CBFP - High-Level Roundtable on Financing: Development Banks, Climate/Biodiversity Funds and Carbon Market Mechanism on "Fair Deal" for the Protection of Central African Forests

issues are not within the reach of these countries, so the countries are discouraged and want to give up. So why, on the basis of what we know about the countries' weak capacity, we cannot wonder about ways of supporting them?

- CAFI: We should distinguish between the role of the private sector in the carbon market and the role as an economic operator. For carbon, no one can pay if we cannot verify, so we need to develop carbon accounting.

**Third question:** what are the structures that can help the sub-region? What scenario can the sub-region adopt so that the private sector can mitigate the risks? How to combine private and public funds?

- Projects must be financed with respect to the real economy.
- There is the agro-industry or large-scale economic activities component. The simplest way is to have a project that can generate a return on investment, we need a zero-deforestation project that demonstrates the return on investment.
- For AfDB, the forestry sector is a particular sector within a global economy. How can we manage the risks? We have instruments at the AfDB to manage risks. If we manage to put in place real intelligent incentives for the private sector. However, there are still questions to be asked:
- How to define private sector taxation regimes in terms of public policy? Two aspects are public policies to accompany the private sector; for the private sector, how to finance? The AfDB is working on the industrialization of the wood sector in Gabon to promote 2nd and 3rd transformation.
- For AFD: 2 points; AFD is fortunate to have a wide range of private sector financing. However, we note that overall, in the Congo Basin we are in a difficult institutional situation, absorption capacity is low, and few economic operators take up AFD financing, particularly in the banking sector. There is a need to improve the business climate and practices.
- Second point: there is a tremendous potential for private sector investment in conservation. Example 1. The forestry sector, the AFD set up management plans in the Congo Basin 30 years ago, today they need to be renewed and so the States are going to recommit themselves for 30 years. Improving management plans in the Congo Basin.
- The wood industry; yes indeed. The point is to know how to respond to the States in terms of agricultural demands? How can we support companies to move towards "deforestation-free" production, but there is also a question about small-scale agricultural producers. We need to offer them "deforestation-free" technical itineraries.

**For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/news-partner/forests-Preliminary-report.html>**

### Annex III: Side Events

CBFP, GIZ, WCS, APN - Suivi de la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration de N'Djamena et du processus de Développement des Plans d'Investissement Pays en prélude à N'Djaména 2



## Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo Facilitation de la République fédérale d'Allemagne (2020-2022)

### SYNTHESE DES TRAVAUX

#### Side Event II : Suivi de la mise en oeuvre de la Déclaration de N'Djamena et du processus de Développement des Plans d'Investissement Pays en prélude à N'Djaména 2

7 juillet 2022, 16h00-18H00, Tente N° 1 de l'hotel Radisson Blu à Libreville, Gabon

Le 07 juillet 2022 s'est tenu dans la Tente N° 1 de l'Hotel Radison Blu de Libreville le side-événement appelé « **Suivi de la mise en oeuvre de la Déclaration de N'Djamena et du processus de Développement des Plans d'Investissement Pays en prélude à N'Djaména 2** ». Cette journée de réflexion stratégique sur la thématique de la transhumance a rassemblé les experts des 3 blocs géographiques et thématiques de la Déclaration de N'DJAMENA. A cette occasion, une feuille de route et un cadre logique, fruits des précédentes sessions des travaux des experts pays, ont été présentés. Différents exposés ont également illustré la diversité des activités menées par des acteurs de la conservation, en lien avec la gestion apaisée de la transhumance. L'évènement dont Me Mayen Bertille, Chargé du Projet à la Coopération Technique Allemande (GIZ) (personne ressource du projet GIZ BSB Yamoussa) assurait la Modération du Side Event était présidé par son excellence, Dr. TABOUNA Honoré, Commissaire à l'Environnement, Ressources Naturelles, Agriculture et Développement Rural (DERNADER) de la Commission de la CEEAC. Y ont pris part, le Professeur Michel BAUDOUIN, Directeur de l'ERAIF, les Leaders et coleaders des Blocs géographiques, les organisations Internationales, les Partenaires Techniques et Financier, les Projets et Programmes de Conservation, des Experts nationaux et internationaux. L'économie des échanges de cette journée de travail relève des grands points qui ont émergé des réflexions.

#### Les travaux en plénière ont été ponctués par quatre principales articulations :

##### 1. La première articulation (de mise en contexte) a déroulé :

- La présentation liminaire de Me Bertille Mayen modératrice du Side Event, qui a rappelé le contexte de la mise en oeuvre de la Déclaration de Ndjamenana et portée sur :
- le suivi de la mise en oeuvre de la Déclaration de N'Djaména et sur le portage institutionnel - organisationnel de la transhumance apaisée par la CEEAC ;
- l'état des lieux du développement des plans d'investissement pays et les leçons apprises afin d'affiner le processus et ;
- l'état d'avancement du développement des accords transfrontaliers.
- Le compte rendu sommaire du side événement du 06/07/2022 portant sur la transhumance transfrontalière, présenté par le Dr Pabamé.

**2. La deuxième articulation :** consacré au partage des expériences et résultats des recherches menées dans les trois Bloc géographiques Centre, Ouest et Est. Les présentations suivantes ont été délivrées :

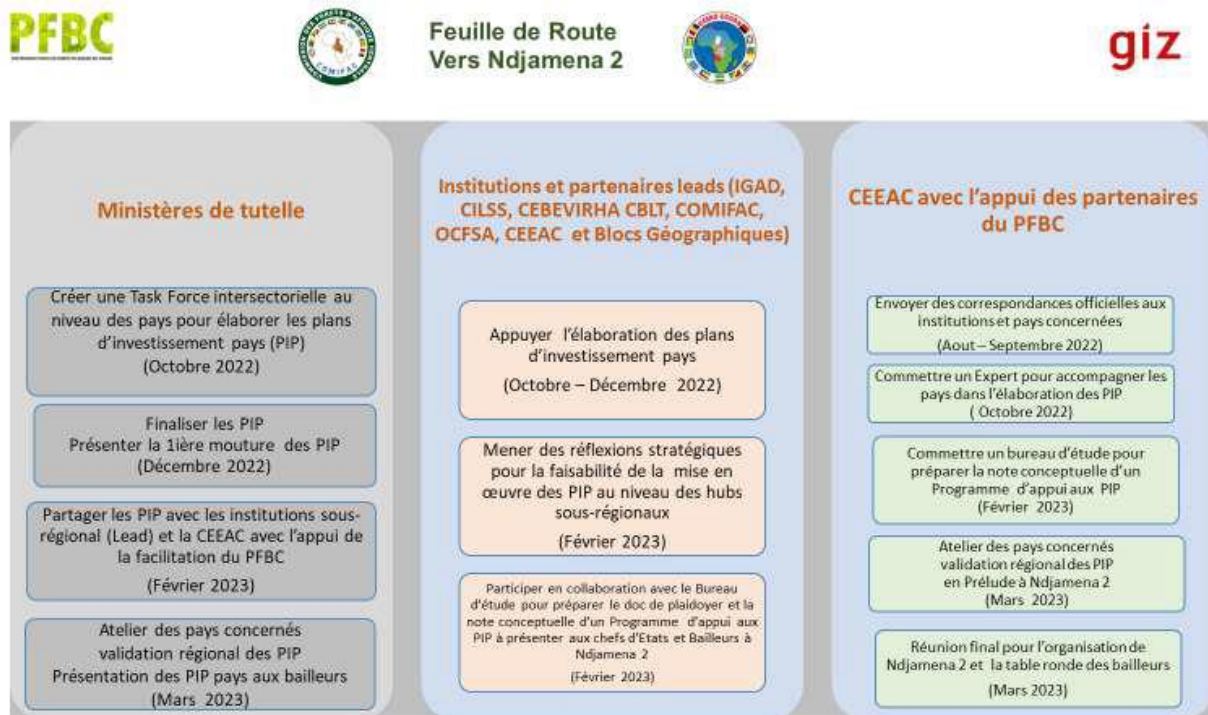
### Annex III: Side Events

CBFP, GIZ, WCS, APN - Suivi de la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration de N'Djamena et du processus de Développement des Plans d'Investissement Pays en prélude à N'Djaména 2

- Présentation sur la thématique du « **Pastoralisme et conservation à Chinko et dans l'Est de la RCA** » ;
- Présentation de la fiche de suivi de la MEO de la déclaration de N'Djaména Bloc Centre, par M. florent ZOWAYA ;
- Présentation du processus d'élaboration du Plan d'Investissement Pays (PIP) du Niger, par M. Salifou MOHAMADOU ;
- Présentation de l'IGAD, son aire d'intervention et ses activités en lien avec la problématique de la transhumance transfrontalière et du MOU CEEAC-IGAD en cours d'élaboration ;
- Présentation de la stratégie Régionale d'action de la CEEAC en matière de transhumance transfrontalière, par Dr Bachirou.

**3. Troisième articulation :** Feuille de route de la mise en oeuvre des recommandations des experts pays.

**4. Quatrième articulation :** élaboration de la feuille de route ci-dessous pour l'organisation de N'Djamena II avec l'implication des ministères de tutelles, les institutions et partenaires, ainsi que la Facilitation Allemande du PFBC.



Par ailleurs, les contributions ont été enrichies par les interventions de :

- Son excellence, Dr. TABOUNA Honoré, Commissaire DERNADER de la CEEAC qui s'est longuement appesanti sur les stratégies régionales sur la Gestion de la Transhumance à travers une approche multidisciplinaire et économique ;

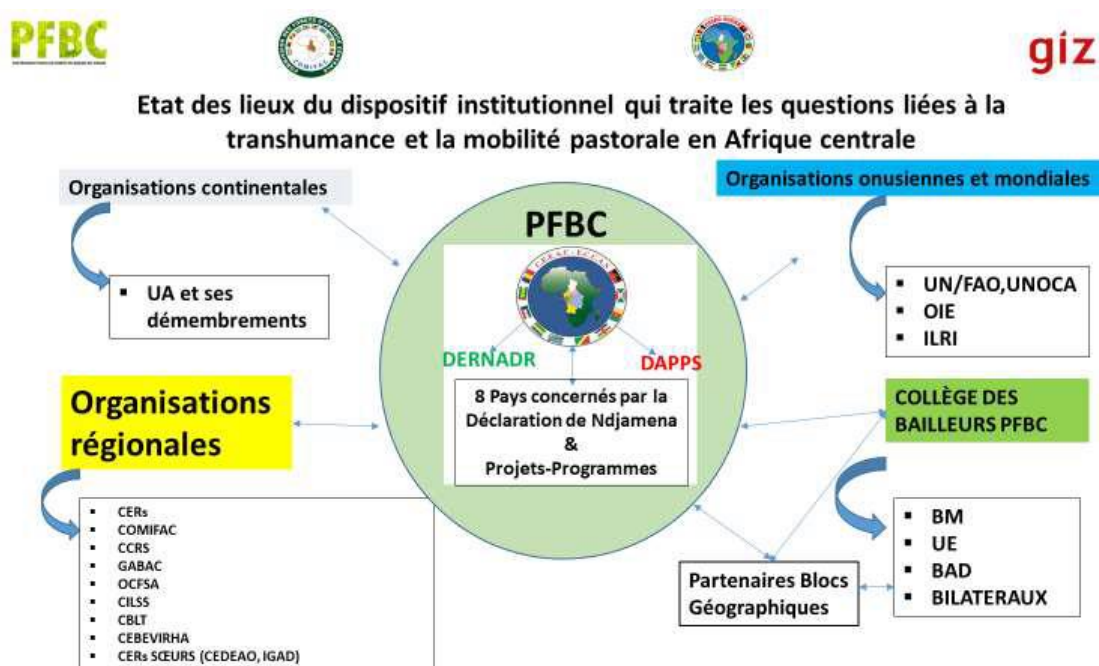
### Annex III: Side Events

CBFP, GIZ, WCS, APN - Suivi de la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration de N'Djamena et du processus de Développement des Plans d'Investissement Pays en prélude à N'Djaména 2

- Dr. Saleh Adams, Délégué Régional FOF/NORD, a présenté l'expérience du BSB Yamoussa dans le processus inclusif de gestion apaisée de la transhumance à travers le forum sous-régional des chefferies traditionnelles ;
- M. Joseph LEKEALEM, Directeur de la Faune et des aires protégées du Cameroun a fait le point sur l'état d'avancement du Plan d'Investissement Pays (PIP) du Cameroun et déploré le manque d'accompagnement technique et financiers pour appuyer les Etats dans ce processus.

### Des échanges riches et motivés, ont émergé trois grands axes d'idées :

1. Adopter une approche pluridisciplinaire de la gestion apaisée de la transhumance transfrontalière pour une coexistence pacifique comme alternative à la gestion traditionnelle de la transhumance qui porte en elle les germes de conflits à plusieurs variables ;
2. L'ancrage institutionnel de "l'Action Transhumance Apaisée" des pays et leurs partenaires stratégiques dans l'optique d'assurer la coordination de l'action de tous les acteurs est primordiale (voir schéma proposé ci-dessous).
3. Le financement durable des Plans d'Investissements Pays



L'ordre du jour étant épuisé le Side Event a pris fin à 19 heures précises sur une note de satisfaction générale des participants.

**For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-partenaires/NDjam%C3%A9na2-PFBC.html>**



### Annex III: Side Events

CIFOR - Woodfuel management and the first decade of REDD+ implementation in Central Africa: Realities and the way forward.



*MOP19 CBFP – Side event CIFOR*

### ***Woodfuel management and the first decade of REDD+ implementation in Central Africa: Realities and the way forward.***

**Organiser: Denis Sonwa (CIFOR)**

Co-organizer : Abdon Awono (CIFOR) ; Jolien Schure ; Cerutti, Paolo (CIFOR)

***Libreville 07/07/2022.***

#### **Context/objective:**

Woodfuel is the main source of energy for cooking for households in Sub-Saharan Africa, contributing to the food security and nutritional needs of millions of people. Its management thus causes impacts both on the environment and socioeconomic domain. The event was based on knowledge exchange on woodfuel management in central Africa. The main objective was to share experiences among the practitioners and to generate early lessons related to woodfuel uses after a decade of REDD+ implementation in Central African countries. The event was comprised of 5 presentations. It combined direct presentations including online and physical participation.

The side event began with an introduction of Denis SONWA, followed by the presentation of the large articulations in front of furnished the sequence that was made by Abdon AWONO. He stressed the importance of the efficient management of wood energy in Central Africa in a context marked by global changes and where the majority of the population uses woodfuel as the main source of energy. The sustainable management of woodfuel can be an important lever in the fight against deforestation and forest degradation, the preservation of biodiversity, and community development in the context of REDD+. Then, different presentations followed.

The first presentation on Fuelwood harvest and land use/cover implication in the Mangrove of Cameroon was made by Claude TAGNE. In a context marked by the high demand for fuelwood of Douala city and where the main source of energy used by fishermen for the smoking of fish is the wood taken from the mangroves. These forests are subject to very significant human pressures, which are responsible for changes in land cover and Land use. He used remote sensing to characterize the implications of fuelwood harvest on the dynamics of the mangrove ecosystem and land cover/use in Cameroon.

The second presentation on the Increase in woodlots through agroforestry plantations in local communities, given by Abdon AWONO of CIFOR, highlighted the effort to plant fastgrowing trees for woodfuel in Cameroon. As part of the GML project, they have contributed to the planting of fast-growing trees by refugees and local communities, in the refugee site close to the border of Cameroon and the Central African Republic, and in the Center Region, close to the city of Yaoundé, in Cameroon. Food trees were associated with the planting material for improved food security through agroforestry.

### **Annex III: Side Events**

*CIFOR - Woodfuel management and the first decade of REDD+ implementation in Central Africa: Realities and the way forward.*

For the third presentation which focused on the Woodfuel and REDD+ in DRC, Jean Jacques BAMBUTA, of CN REDD+ DRC talked about the experience of his country on REDD+ initiatives. He highlighted that in each region of DRC, efforts have been made to insert REDD + in the strategy of development and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from forests. DRC is mainstreaming woodfuel in each of the sub-national REDD+ initiatives while the country is developing activities at the national level to structure the governance framework related to biomass collection and uses.

The fourth presentation on the Cross-border trade of woodfuel from the far North region of Cameroon: The urgent need for a regional regulation, was done by Jean Hugues Nlom from the University of Douala. The presentation gave an overview of the socioeconomic and environmental context of management and trade of woodfuel in the far North region of Cameroon and neighboring countries both Chad and Nigeria. The cross-border flow of energy timber across Cameroon's borders is very important. Indeed, it stresses that the lack of regional regulation on woodfuel cross-border trade and the extreme poverty of rural dwellers, intensify transactions and the pressure on forest ecosystems of the Far Nord.

**From these presentations, the following insight messages can be underlined:**

- Promoting efficient management of wood energy in Central African countries is urgent with regard to the vulnerability of ecosystems and their crucial role in carbon storage.
- In the Congo Basin countries, the increase in the production of woodfuel is linked to the strong demand from the cities, the strong growth of the population, and the lag of a regional regulatory policy governing the related activities.
- There is a great need of strengthening the woodfuel production capacity of natural ecosystems through the increased planting of fast-growing species.
- A clear model should be proposed on reconciling the ambitions of using less carbon-emitting energies and strengthening the carbon sinks of the Congo Basin States which have energy sources based largely on wood resources, with the imperatives of combating forest degradation and deforestation.
- Efforts are being made and should be supported to reduce deforestation linked to woodfuel production, through adapted regulation norms governing exploitation and marketing activities, territorial planning, coordination of energy policies, and good governance of natural resources.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/news-partner/Woodfuel-management-CIFOR.html>***

## Annex III: Side Events

CIFOR - Evolution of measuring, reporting, and verification (MRV) after a decade of REDD+ in Central Africa: key messages



### Summary and key messages of side event – 07/07/2022

**Theme:** Evolution of measuring, reporting, and verification (MRV) after a decade of REDD+ in Central Africa

**Organiser:** Denis Sonwa (CIFOR)

**Co-organisers:** Eugene Chia (FOKABS), Richard Sufo (University of Mans)

**Context/objective:** The event was based on knowledge exchange on the evolution of MRV in central Africa. It combined direct presentations including online and physical participation and had as objective to review and share lessons on more than a decade of REDD+ MRV in Central Africa, to take stock and map the way forward for improving MRV and Transparency systems in the region. The event was comprised of 4 presentations.

In the first presentation that served as the introduction to the side event, **Dr Denis Sonwa of CIFOR**, gave an overview of MRV in the context of the UNFCCC and the Implementation of the Paris Agreement. He underscored that forests ecosystem in the region is gaining grounds in the fight against climate change globally, thus the need to look for ways to improve REDD+ MRV. He further indicated that an improved REDD+ MRV and transparency system will attract partners and investors for climate action in the region.

The second presentation on the experiences of MRV process at the subnational level in the Congo Basin, given by **Dr Richard Sufo of the University of Mans**, highlighted the role of local capacity and knowledge in the MRV process in relation to forest inventory and monitoring, household survey, participatory mapping, reporting etc. He mentioned that the involvement of local capacity in the MRV process through the mobilization of their indigenous knowledge, contributes to increase data quality and reduces the costs and duration of the evaluation process.

The third presentation on the MRV process at the national level in DRC was given by **Dr Denis Sonwa**, on behalf of **Cleto Ndikumagenge, FAO, DRC**. The presentation gave an overview of the FAO program that is supporting the building of the forestry MRV in the DRC. Denis stated that the program has made contributions to capacity building of stakeholders, generated data on the pillars of National Forest Monitoring System and the development of knowledge products for MRV support in the DRC.

The fourth presentation on the MRV/Transparency in Central Africa in the context of the Paris Agreement, **Eugene Chia of FOKABS**, cited those countries must have the institutional arrangements and operational systems in place to measure, report and verify their climate actions. He stated that through the preliminary findings of an ongoing study, countries in the region are making efforts on MRV, though insufficient to respond to MRV/transparency requirements in relation to governance and institutional arrangements, expertise, data flow, systems and tools and stakeholder engagement.

From the presentations, key messages of the side event included the following:

- That the contribution of the forestry sector to the implementation and reporting of the NDCs will be based on a solid well functioning MRV/transparency system
- MRV/transparency system needs to be adapted to take into consideration the local knowledge and capacities

[Further information...](#)

**For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/news-partner/key-messages.html>**

## Annex III: Side Events

CIFOR - Les forêts du bassin du Congo - Etat des Forêts 2021: Produit phare des partenaires du PFBC



# Les forêts du bassin du Congo - Etat des Forêts 2021: Produit phare des partenaires du PFBC



*Le rapport État des Forêts (EDF) du bassin du Congo est publié périodiquement pour présenter les écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique centrale et leur environnement de gestion. Rapport EDF 2021 disponible en téléchargement:*

[Rapport intégral EDF 2021...](#)

[Résumé du rapport EDF 2021...](#)

[Conclusions générales](#)

Le rapport État des Forêts (EDF) du bassin du Congo est publié périodiquement pour présenter les écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique centrale et leur environnement de gestion.

Le rapport EDF 2021 comporte quatre parties dont la première dresse un bilan effectif de l'état de la ressource qui est de plus en plus reconnue au niveau mondial comme étant un massif forestier essentiel pour la séquestration du carbone et la conservation de la diversité biologique.

Le présent rapport met en perspective les écosystèmes forestiers du bassin du Congo dans le contexte mondial caractérisé par des débats qui orienteront la gestion de toutes les forêts tropicales du monde pendant les décennies à venir. Il aborde aussi des thématiques d'actualité telles que la gestion des tourbières et les interrogations sur la relation entre la gestion des ressources de la biodiversité et l'émergence ou la réémergence de maladies zoonotiques dont la COVID-19 a particulièrement affecté le contexte de sa rédaction.

Enfin, ce rapport identifie les principaux défis qui doivent être relevés, pour parvenir à une gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers du bassin du Congo, afin qu'elle contribue au mieux à l'amélioration des moyens de subsistance et du cadre de vie des populations locales et des peuples autochtones.

### Annex III: Side Events

CIFOR, PROFOREST, UCLA - Reducing deforestation in commodity supply chains in the Congo Basin: Recent initiatives, constraints and future prospects



## **MAJOR MESSAGES, STRONG FINDINGS AND KNOWLEDGE GAINED,** **Parallel Event of July 5, 2022 during CBFP MOP 19**

### **Theme: Reducing deforestation in commodity supply chains in the Congo Basin: Recent initiatives, constraints and future prospects**

**Organised by** Denis J. Sonwa (CIFOR), Louis Defo (PROFOREST) and Elsa Ordway (UCLA)

**Context/Objective:** In a global context marked by the need to reduce the carbon footprint of perennial crop value chains, this side event aimed to explore realities of deforestation and forest degradation associated with crops produced in the Congo Basin. It was structured around an introductory presentation, five presentations and discussions. After Denis' introductory speech, Richard Eba' opened the presentations with a paper on "imported deforestation" and the "zero deforestation" strategy. This was followed by presentations by Elsa Ordway, Eric Bososila, Louis DEFO and Gilles Etoga respectively on the dynamics of commodities in sub-Saharan Africa, the oil palm sector in the Yangambi landscape (DRC), the prerequisites for sustainable commodity production in the Congo Basin and WWF's interventions in the field of commodities.

### **Key messages, major conclusions and insights learned from this work are as follows:**

- In the context of discussions on 'imported deforestation' and the exclusion of deforestation from agricultural commodity supply chains, there are a number of issues including the definition of forest and by implication deforestation (net or gross? legal or illegal?), the tools for monitoring deforestation and the year from which it should be considered;
- Since 2005, agribusinesses have acquired nearly 23 million hectares of land in sub-Saharan Africa and there has been a significant expansion of agricultural land in that region of the world at the same time;
- The expansion of agricultural land has been driven much more by agricultural production for domestic markets and cocoa production than by other export-oriented agricultural commodities;
- The most vulnerable countries in the Congo Basin to agricultural expansion at the expense of forests are the DRC, Cameroon, Gabon and Congo;
- In Cameroon, between 2000 and 2015, the increase in palm oil production was driven much more by the expansion of cultivated areas than by increases in yields or productivity;
- Smallholders and artisanal millers are very important players in the oil palm sector both in terms of cultivated area, production volume and forest footprint. Any attempt to eliminate deforestation from the value chain should consider them properly;
- In terms of eliminating deforestation from commodity supply chains, efforts to define and implement land-use plans, land-use planning, coordination of policies and actions of sectoral ministerial departments and good governance in land tenure are prerequisites in the Congo Basin;
- The payment of sufficiently remunerative prices to smallholders and the fight against poverty within communities in forest areas are also prerequisites for the sustainable production of

### Annex III: Side Events

CIFOR, PROFOREST, UCLA - Reducing deforestation in commodity supply chains in the Congo Basin: Recent initiatives, constraints and future prospects



agricultural commodities in the Congo Basin. This sustainable production also requires the development and effective implementation of appropriate agricultural codes by the states concerned;

- How can the emergence ambitions of the Congo Basin States, whose economies are partly based on agriculture, be reconciled with the imperatives of "zero deforestation"?

[Read more...](#)

Contacts : [d.sonwa@cgiar.org](mailto:d.sonwa@cgiar.org) ; [elsaordway@ucla.edu](mailto:elsaordway@ucla.edu) ; [louis@proforest.net](mailto:louis@proforest.net)

**Please watch the video on YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/YqBSeZE3BWA>

***For further information and downloads, please visit:*** <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-partenaires/Messages-majeurs.html>

### Annex III: Side Events

CIFOR, USFS - Peatlands, mangroves, and other wetlands: climate responses in the Congo Basin

## Summary and Key message of a side event July 6, 2022, Libreville, Gabon

### ***Peatlands, mangroves, and other wetlands: climate responses in the Congo Basin***

*Slot 1: Current scientific activities on peatlands (and other wetlands) in the Congo Basin*

*Slot 2: Early responses to protect and manage peatlands in the Congo Basin*

**Organizer:** Denis Sonwa (CIFOR); **Co-organizers:** Rene Siwe (USFS)

**Context/objective:** to better include peatlands, mangroves, and other wetlands in climate and environmental action in the Congo Basin, the side event comprises 2 slots during which oral presentations were made by those physically present in Libreville and from online. Presentations were followed by exchanges with participants (present physically in Libreville and those attending online). The following key message can be retained.

### **Technical issues:**

Besides the expanse of peatlands in the cuvette central; pockets of peatlands exist in other areas in the Congo basin forest.

- There's a need to measure the area extent of all peatlands in the Congo basin forest;
- There's a need to study and understand the biodiversity, composition, and carbon content (physical and chemical properties) of the different peat and peatland areas in the Congo basin;
- Remote sensing-based techniques (RADAR, optical and ancillary data) coupled with ground measurements can be used to measure and monitor the area extent of peatlands and disturbances in the peatland ecosystems;

### **Governance and cross-cutting issues:**

An analysis of the economic valuation of peatlands (biodiversity, carbon content, etc.) is an important step in their conservation and sustainable management considering Article 6 of the Paris Agreement;

An in-depth analysis of the threats to peatlands and other competing land uses in peatland areas as well as engaging strategic dialogue with private sector are essential for the development of strategies and measures for the sustainable management and protection of peatlands

Explore the feasibility to establish innovative financing mechanisms such as for example, sustainable Finance Facilities, collaborative partnerships with private sector aimed at raising development capital to drive sustainable development in the peatlands landscape. The conservation and management of peatlands should be done in a holistic manner, taking into consideration other national processes like REDD+, national land use planning, agriculture policies, etc.

### Annex III: Side Events

CIFOR, USFS - Peatlands, mangroves, and other wetlands: climate responses in the Congo Basin

Establish a legal and institutional framework, as well as strategies and measures to ensure the sustainable protection and management of peatlands in the Congo basin, helping the countries to implement the [Brazzaville Declaration](#);

Continue to raise awareness (locally, nationally, and internationally) on the importance of peatlands and the important role they play in the stabilization of the global climate; consider peatlands in national adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Strengthen the exchange of information, best practices and experiences in peatlands conservation and sustainable management between Congo basin countries and countries in other tropical basins (Amazon and Southeast Asia), taking advantage of already existing international initiatives (UNEP Global Peatlands Initiative and others) and enabling the implementation of the [UNEA-4 resolution on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands](#).

#### YouTube Link (First slot)

[Peatland, mangrove, and other wetland and climate responses in the Congo Basin](#)

**For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/news-partner/climate-responses.html>**





## Annex III: Side Events

CIRAD, DYNAFAC - DYNAFAC: De Mbaiki à Bambidie, 40 ans de suivi de la dynamique dans les forêts de production



# SIDE EVENT DYNAFAC: DE MBAIKI A BAMBIDIE, 40 ANS DE SUIVI DE LA DYNAMIQUE DANS LES FORETS DE PRODUCTION

## 1 DEROULEMENT DES TRAVAUX

Le side event DYNAFAC s'est déroulé sous la forme de présentations faisant le bilan de 40 ans de recherche sur la dynamique forestière et concluant sur des premières recommandations à l'endroit des décideurs politiques. La première présentation intitulée « *Structure, diversité et dynamique des forêts d'Afrique centrale : les principaux acquis des projets DynAfFor et P3FAC* » a été réalisée par Sylvie GOURLET-FLEURY (CIRAD, France) et Félix ALLAH-BAREM (ICRA, RCA), et la seconde présentation intitulée « *Dynamique des populations des essences commerciales d'Afrique centrale : les principaux acquis des projets DynAfFor et P3FAC* » a été réalisée par Jean-Louis DOUCET (Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech –Université de Liège, Belgique) et Franck MONTHE (Nature+ asbl, Belgique).

Les exposés scientifiques ont été suivis d'un panel de discussion sur les questions visant à savoir (i) comment contribuer à la bonne prise en compte des résultats de la recherche dans les réglementations nationales, (ii) quelles stratégies mettre en place pour assurer le suivi sur le long terme d'un réseau de dispositifs, (iii) comment assurer l'animation de ce réseau et la capitalisation des résultats pour un large public ?

Ce side event était animé par le Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMIFAC, Monsieur Hervé MAÏDOU et le panel était composé de Monsieur Donald IPONGA (IRET, Gabon), Monsieur Christophe DU CASTEL (AFD, France), Monsieur Joël LOUMETO (UMNG, République du Congo) et Monsieur Vincent ISTACE (CIB, République du Congo).

Les différentes communications et discussions ont permis de mettre en avant les résultats obtenus dans le cadre des différents projets en Afrique centrale et de proposer des actions concrètes pour la prise en compte de ces résultats dans les législations forestières des pays forestiers de la zone COMIFAC.

## 2 RECOMMANDATIONS FINALES

Globalement, la COMIFAC dans son rôle d'organe d'harmonisation des politiques forestières et de mise en place des instruments d'aménagement dans ses États membres, a salué à nouveau la pertinence des résultats obtenus et les recommandations formulées<sup>11</sup> par le Collectif DYNAFAC. Elle a pris l'engagement de les transmettre aux différents ministres en charge des forêts dans les pays de la sous-région. Elle s'est également engagée à oeuvrer à leur intégration dans les réglementations nationales, par la mise en place d'un dialogue science-politique à l'échelle régionale au sein de son groupe de travail gouvernance forestière. Enfin, elle sensibilisera ses États membres afin qu'ils mettent en place des organes de concertation nationaux comparables au comité scientifique consultatif du MINFOF au Cameroun. Les recommandations suivantes ont également été formulées :

- Mobiliser d'autres bailleurs pour obtenir des financements complémentaires pour assurer le suivi sur le long terme d'un réseau de dispositifs et des recherches qui en découlent;

<sup>11</sup>[https://www.dynafac.org/files/upload/mediatheque/Documents\\_de\\_synthese/Note\\_Aux\\_Decideurs\\_DYNAFACV7.%5B1%5D.pdf](https://www.dynafac.org/files/upload/mediatheque/Documents_de_synthese/Note_Aux_Decideurs_DYNAFACV7.%5B1%5D.pdf)

### **Annex III: Side Events**

*CIRAD, DYNAFAC - DYNAFAC: De Mbaiki à Bambidie, 40 ans de suivi de la dynamique dans les forêts de production*

- Responsabiliser les états et le secteur privé pour assurer le suivi des dispositifs ;
- Positiver la communication autour des résultats obtenus par le collectif DYNAFAC ;
- Préparer des outils de communication adaptés aux différents publics et en particulier à l'endroit (i) des décideurs politiques, (ii) du monde scientifique, (iii) de la société civile et des (iv) populations locales.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-rdp/Mbaiki-Bambidie.html>***

### Annex III: Side Events

Client Earth, Brainforest - La foresterie participative : Quelles avancées au Gabon ? Quels enseignements pour le Bassin du Congo ?



ClientEarth et Brainforest

## La foresterie participative : Quelles avancées au Gabon ? Quels enseignements pour le Bassin du Congo ?

19<sup>ème</sup> Réunion des Parties du PFBC, Hôtel Radison Blu, Libreville, le 06 juillet 2022

Alors que les enjeux globaux de lutte contre la crise climatique et l'érosion de la biodiversité portent de manière croissante sur la protection des forêts tropicales, ClientEarth en partenariat avec Brainforest a lancé une invitation pour discuter des **socles politiques et juridiques pour placer les communautés au centre de la gestion des forêts**. Le panel a porté principalement sur **les expériences de mise en oeuvre de foresterie communautaire au Gabon**, y compris les opportunités et les défis. La session a été marquée par des deux phases respectivement de présentations et de discussions.

### Présentations

Il s'est d'abord agi de présenter les *initiatives pour créer un cadre propice au développement de la foresterie sociale*, avec un passage en revue des mécanismes juridiques mis en place pour favoriser l'essor de la foresterie sociale.

Puis, l'assistance a été éduquée sur les *fondements, approches, techniques et enjeux pour la conduite des processus de réformes forestières inclusives*. Dans le cadre des révisions des lois régissant le secteur forestier pour répondre aux nouveaux défis nationaux pour une meilleure protection et gestion des forêts, il faut dire que les bonnes réformes juridiques sont une première étape essentielle dans le processus de changement réel et durable. S'agissant du cadre juridique favorable à la foresterie communautaire, il n'y a pas un modèle unique d'application universelle. Cependant, tous les modèles partagent l'objectif de **gestion des forêts par et pour les communautés locales et populations autochtones**. Dans ce cadre, **ClientEarth a identifié dix thématiques** à considérer pour s'assurer que le cadre juridique contribue à la réussite de la foresterie communautaire.

Ensuite, la thématique de *l'approche sensible au genre dans la gouvernance forestière* a montré les enjeux, défis et opportunités pour la prise en compte du genre dans la gestion durable des ressources forestières au Gabon et au-delà, à travers toute la sous-région. Enfin, la partie des présentations s'est achevée avec la « *Mise en oeuvre des obligations communautaires liées à la foresterie communautaire : expériences du terrain* », un exposé qui a permis de partager les leçons apprises sur la foresterie participative au Gabon à travers une année de travail sur le terrain de l'ONG Brainforest.

### Conclusions et connaissance acquises

La phase de discussion a été très fructueuse par les questions et le partage d'expérience sur l'appui aux communautés et la gestion des forêts dans les pays de la sous-région. Une recommandation majeure dégagée a été celle de finaliser la stratégie sur la foresterie communautaire au Gabon pour renforcer l'appui et droits des communautés et ainsi faciliter la gestion durable des ressources forestières et le développement local.

### **Annex III: Side Events**

*Client Earth, Brainforest* - La foresterie participative : Quelles avancées au Gabon ? Quels enseignements pour le Bassin du Congo?

Cependant, il a été évident qu'à l'égard de la question de genre, il subsiste peut-être une méconnaissance, ce qui ne fait que renforcer le besoin et l'utilité d'une approche genre à travers les réformes juridiques et leur implémentation.

Les participants ont apprécié les thématiques abordées et ont manifesté leur espoir que les plaidoyers évoqués porteront des fruits car il en va du bien être des communautés villageoises.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-rdp/enseignements-BC.html>***

## Annex III: Side Events

Climate Focus - Le Forest Declaration Assessment - Comment atteindre les objectifs 2030 dans le Bassin du Congo ?



### **RDP19 PFBC Événement parallèle Climate Focus : Messages clés et perspectives**

*L'événement parallèle de Climate Focus, intitulé « Le Forest Declaration Assessment - Comment atteindre les objectifs 2030 dans le Bassin du Congo ? » a pris place le 5 juillet 2022 lors de la 19<sup>e</sup> Réunion des Parties du Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo.*

Le Forest Declaration Assessment est un suivi annuel, fait en partenariat avec un réseau d'ONGs et de think tanks de la société civile, des avancées mondiales en termes d'atteinte des objectifs forestiers. Les rapports annuels font état des progrès accomplis et émettent des recommandations aux décideurs sur la scène internationale. Suite à l'annonce de nouveaux engagements forestiers dans le cadre de la COP26 en novembre 2021, notamment relatifs aux forêts du bassin du Congo, un pilote régional du Forest Declaration Assessment a été lancé en 2022 dans la région. En partenariat avec un réseau informel d'experts de la société civile régionale et nationale, le Forest Declaration Assessment publiera son rapport régional sur l'état des lieux des politiques forestières dans le bassin du Congo lors de la COP27.

Après une brève présentation du projet, le side event a laissé place à cinq experts régionaux pour une série de présentations sur différents thèmes forestiers. Nicolas Bayol, directeur d'études chez FRMi-RIOFAC, a d'abord prononcé un discours d'ouverture sur les priorités pour les forêts du bassin du Congo. M Bayol a d'abord présenté le massif forestier très varié de la région, avec des forêts plus ou moins vulnérables au changement climatique et aux pressions humaines. Il a noté le taux de déforestation et de dégradation faibles par rapport à d'autres régions, mais néanmoins en hausse, notamment dans certaines régions de la RDC du fait essentiellement de la pression démographique. Deux priorités d'action ont été énoncées : la modernisation de l'agriculture, ainsi que les progrès nécessaires sur l'affectation des terres, qui doit être régulée et transparente.

Baudouin Michel, Directeur de l'Ecole Régionale Postuniversitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion intégrés des Forêts et Territoires tropicaux (ERAIFT), est ensuite intervenu sur les moteurs internes et externes de la déforestation dans le Bassin du Congo. Son intervention a rappelé le rôle de stockage de carbone de ses forêts, le bassin fixant 5% des émissions mondiales, ainsi que les deux moteurs principaux de déforestation dans la sous-région : l'agriculture sur brûlis et le bois de chauffage et charbon de bois. L'accent a notamment été mis sur le rôle clé du secteur agricole dans la solution pour les forêts, ainsi que sur la nécessité de prendre en compte les problématiques liées à l'explosion des villes et des besoins en infrastructure.

L'événement parallèle s'est poursuivi avec une intervention d'Aline Kana, responsable du secrétariat technique du Réseau des jeunes des forêts d'Afrique Centrale (REJEFAC). Après avoir présenté le réseau et ses activités dans la sous-région, l'intervention a proposé des pistes pour améliorer l'implication de la jeunesse dans les décisions et interventions politiques dans le secteur forêt, notamment en accroissant la représentativité de la jeunesse au sein des instances et des espaces de prise de décisions, ainsi que dans leur processus d'application. Le besoin de définir des politiques, stratégies et programmes de financements sensible à la jeunesse et aux femmes a été énoncé, comme ceux de renforcer les capacités, de mettre à jour des compétences et des savoirs dans les thématiques émergentes et de développer les opportunités et perspectives d'employabilité en rapport avec les enjeux de la préservation de l'environnement.

Raphaël Tsanga, expert en droit et politiques environnementales au CIFOR, a ensuite traité des questions des droits des populations locales et autochtones à l'épreuve des politiques forestières. Trois niveaux d'action ont

### **Annex III: Side Events**

*Climate Focus - Le Forest Declaration Assessment - Comment atteindre les objectifs 2030 dans le Bassin du Congo ?*

été évoqués : (i) la reconnaissance des droits coutumiers dans les différents instruments juridiques ; (ii) la dimension socio-économique afin de satisfaire les besoins essentiels des communautés ; et (iii) les dispositifs de foresterie sociale combinant ces deux aspects. La question primordiale de la non-reconnaissance des droits fonciers a été évoquée, ainsi que l'enjeu non seulement de la consécration du droit, mais aussi de sa protection effective.

Pour la dernière intervention, Richard Eba'a Atyi, coordinateur régional du CIFOR, est revenu sur l'enjeu des déclarations forestières. Le faible impact des engagements de lutte contre la déforestation pris dans le cadre de la déclaration de New York a été évoqué, ainsi que le besoin de traiter des questions de coordination des bailleurs de fonds. La sous-région s'est vue promettre des fonds importants sur les prochaines années. Un mécanisme de suivi et de gouvernance des fonds est nécessaire pour assurer l'impact de ces engagements.

L'événement parallèle s'est clos sur une séance de questions-réponses, avec notamment une intervention de Monique Yigbedek, coordinatrice régionale du réseau des femmes d'Afrique centrale pour le développement durable (REFADD). Cette intervention a soulevé le problème de la participation des femmes à la prise des décisions et du besoin d'analyses auprès des communautés pour identifier les niveaux d'intervention auxquels peuvent participer les femmes, en tenant compte des us et coutumes, des pays concernés.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/meetings-news/Messages-Insights.html>***

FLAG œuvre pour la transparence  
et la légalité dans la gestion des  
ressources naturelles



## « Actions de suivi et de veille juridique par la société civile pour la protection des forêts d'Afrique centrale »

Synthèse de l'évènement parallèle à 19<sup>ème</sup> rencontre des parties du PFBC à Libreville

Organisé le 06 juillet 2022 par Field Legality Advisory Group (FLAG), Conservation Justice (CJ) et Brainforest, le side-event « **Actions de suivi et de veille juridique par la société civile pour la protection des forêts d'Afrique centrale** » avait pour objectif principal de mettre en lumière les initiatives de suivi portant sur le contentieux environnemental et de discuter des voies et moyens pour un accroissement des actions similaires. Pour ce faire les coorganisateur ont présenté devant un auditoire en ligne et en présentiel, les résultats de leurs actions y compris les défis et les enjeux du suivi des contentieux issus de la gestion des ressources naturel dans le bassin du Congo. Les présentations suivantes : « le suivi du respect de la mise en oeuvre des cahiers de charges et l'assistance juridique aux communautés », « les relations avec l'administration et les forces de l'ordre pour renforcer l'application de la loi » et sur le « Sommier des infractions forestières et fauniques : Reflet du contentieux forestier et faunique au Cameroun » ont suscité des échanges avec les participants à l'issue desquelles les points suivants ont été mis en relief.

### Points Retenus

- les organisations de la société civile (OSC) font face à des difficultés financières pour appuyer les communautés au cours des procédures judiciaires ;
- les OSC collaborent étroitement avec les administrations (forêts, faune, justice,) ainsi que les forces de l'ordre à travers des formations sur la procédure pénale, la participation aux opérations de terrain ou encore le suivi des enquêtes judiciaires. Toutefois, des contraintes existent du fait, entre autres, de réticences ou de la méconnaissance de l'action des OSC ;
- le suivi de l'état du contentieux environnemental traité par les juridictions et les administrations compétentes permet d'analyser sa portée, d'identifier des lacunes dans la gestion du contentieux et de proposer des solutions adéquates. Cette action est d'autant plus importante qu'elle est quasiment inédite en Afrique centrale si on s'en tient à l'approche d'analyse (quantitative et qualitative).

### Recommandations pertinentes enregistrées :

- la multiplication des actions de suivi et de veille juridique par les OSC dans la sous-région pour les communautés et auprès des administrations et forces de l'ordre ;

### Annex III: Side Events

FLAG, CJ, Brainforest - Actions de suivi et de veille juridique par la société civile pour la protection des forêts d'Afrique centrale

- la communication sur les besoins de suivi et de veille juridique du contentieux environnemental avec des partenaires techniques et financiers pour un appui plus accru en la matière ;
- la poursuite du dialogue avec les administrations et forces de l'ordre pour une collaboration plus étroite avec les OSC.

For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-partenaires/RDP19-Flag.html>



BP: 4267 Yaoundé Cameroun; Tel: (237) 222 210 036 / 243 001 567

Email: [flagorganisation@gmail.com](mailto:flagorganisation@gmail.com) / [mailflag@flag-cm.org](mailto:mailflag@flag-cm.org) / [www.flag-cm.org/](http://www.flag-cm.org/) [www.flag-cm.org](http://www.flag-cm.org)

Récépissé de déclaration n°00001549 /RDA/IO6/BAPP du 25 septembre 2012 du préfet du Mfoundi



### Annex III: Side Events

FSC - Understanding FSC Solutions to Strengthen the Value and Contribution of Congo Basin Forests to Sustainable Economies and the Wellbeing of Society



5-8 July 2022

# FSC SIDE EVENT

CBFP 19th MoP: Understanding FSC Solutions to Strengthen the Value and Contribution of Congo Basin Forests to Sustainable Economies and the Wellbeing of Society

11/07/2022



## SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

FSC's side event, *Understanding FSC Solutions to Strengthen the Value and Contribution of Congo Basin Forests to Sustainable Economies and the Wellbeing of Society*, was attended by 43 participants, 40 onsite and 3 online on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July at 14:30 – 16:00.

The event featured the following speakers:

- Harrison Kojwang, Regional Director, FSC Africa
- Belmont Tchoumba, Central Africa Forest Programme Coordinator at WWF
- George Akwah, FSC Congo Basin Coordinator
- Esteban Toja, Certification Advisor, FSC Congo Basin
- William Lawyer, Policy and Standards Manager, Africa.

## KEY FEATURE

During the event, FSC introduced a range of FSC solutions that are being deployed across the world and in the Congo Basin to strengthen the governance of forests for people and economy, address the climate challenge and strengthen tropical forest product value chains in traditional and emerging markets. These include

- Solutions and tools for sustainable management of forests under FSC certification, such as FSC principles and criteria for forest stewardship,
- Solutions and tools to protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as the high conservation values (HCVs) or the ecosystem services procedure,
- Solutions adapted for community and smallholder managed forests, and
- Solutions to manage risks, prevent negative environmental impacts and fraud, and market solutions for sustainable value chains.

The FSC ecosystem services procedure drew numerous reactions from the audience, among which featured questions and comments about the process and how logging companies and small-holder forest managers, the state, and communities could take advantage of the model. The ecosystem services framework allows FSC certificate holders to demonstrate the impact of their forest management activities on both ecosystems and biodiversity and people.

The true value of tropical forests and their long-term benefits to economies and society can only be achieved through the protection and enhancement of ecosystem services as foundation of forest management operations. The FSC ecosystem services procedure, associated with the overall FSC certification scheme, enables forest management units to ensure that their operations are low or carbon-neutral, and are biodiversity-positive. With the associated economic and societal benefits, the FSC ecosystem services framework is also a market tool that enables companies to promote the ecosystem services that they contribute to into markets.

Harrison Kojwang, using the case of Uganda, where the government is working to certify national parks not for logging but to get a credible valuation of their ecosystem services it can take to the environmental market and claim credit, argued that such benefits are great for all stakeholders.

Other discussions focused on FSC certification and its benefits to both the state, companies, and local communities. The session highlighted how FSC standards are developed and showed how states such as Gabon are adopting the FSC certification to strengthen their forest management systems.

### Annex III: Side Events

FSC - Understanding FSC Solutions to Strengthen the Value and Contribution of Congo Basin Forests to Sustainable Economies and the Wellbeing of Society

**For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/news-partner/CBFP-MoP19-FSC.html>**



#### **FSC Africa Regional Office**

Residence Triton 1, Lot N°01  
Impasse Henri Joachim ODOUMA  
Quartier Tahiti, Libreville, Gabon

**Tel:** +241 77 72 74 57

**E-Mail:** fscafrica@fsc.org

## Annex III: Side Events

GIZ - Future of transboundary pastoralism



### Side Event

#### „Future of transboundary pastoralism“

6th July, 2022 at 16:00 – 17:30 pm

19th Meeting of Parties Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)

“Tente 2” at Radisson Hotel, Libreville, Gabon

### Main take-aways and recommendations

The side event enabled the exchange on different perspectives of (transboundary) pastoralism and its various challenges. It triggered the understanding of the need to manage (transboundary) pastoralism in a conflict sensitive, inclusive manner based on lessons learned.

- Dr. Iven Schad, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), welcomed about 50 participants (in person and virtually) and gave an introduction underlining his appreciation to discuss on the issue of transboundary pastoralism within this fora providing food for thought for the upcoming new regional Project “Peaceful and Inclusive Pastoralism”. The originally near to nature land use system of mobile pastoralism with a long history in the Sahel region is increasingly under pressure due to major disruptions such as increasing livestock, climate change, decreasing natural resources etc. More and more, pastoralism becomes an issue in the Congo Basin Forest countries since movements go further down towards the South. The sustainability of land use is endangered and leads to threats for the livelihood of mobile pastoralists and farmers. It also impacts on remaining biodiversity hot spots and to the social cohesion in an overall worsening security situation. The German Development Cooperation has an extensive portfolio in the green sector as well as on peace and conflict and strengthening good governance in the four countries of Chad, Niger, Cameroon, and Nigeria.
- Dr. Pabame Sougnabé, Independent Consultant & ex-Coordinator of La Plateforme Pastorale du Tchad and Mohammed Bello Tukur, Secretary General, Confederation of Traditional Stock Breeders Organizations in Africa – CORET based in Nigeria set the scene: (Cross-national) Pastoralism is vital for the rural economy and food security with long-established routes which are partly not accessible anymore. They stressed the importance of cross-sectoral dialogue platforms and a view at the issue of pastoralism from different angles incorporating lessons learned for conflict sensitive management of transboundary pastoralism related to different types of conflict in regard to pastoralism.
- Hissein Hadji Tchere, Chargé de programmes, environnement et développement local, Délégation de l’Union européenne en République du Tchad, presented the ongoing and upcoming projects by the European Union related to transhumance. Stefan Essel, GIZ Africa Department at Head office, presented the current planning status for the new regional project “Peaceful and Inclusive Pastoralism” by German Development Cooperation covering four countries of Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad. Project focus is foreseen along a main route of transhumant pastoralism between Chad, Cameroon and Nigeria. Niger is important with a view to upscale “lessons learned”.

### Annex III: Side Events

#### GIZ - Future of transboundary pastoralism

Some **key messages and recommendations** could be summarized below for the upcoming N'Djamena Conference on pastoralism at the end of the German facilitation role of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) for how to better manage (transboundary) pastoralism:

- Policy decisions and legislative measures aim to regulate pastoralism and **require coordination** between the different regulations. It is essential to include evidence-based facts and to be **conflict sensitive** by bringing the relevant actors together. The knowledge about regulations (regional, national, sub-national) and **Follow-up on implementation** require attention.
- Existing **best practice examples** should be used and scaled up.
- Necessity of **inclusion of (agro)pastoralist interest groups and marginalized groups** in policy development and management of pastoralism at regional, (sub)national and local level

#### Annexes:

- 1) Program of the side event
- 2) Presentation of Dr. Pabame Sougnabé, Consultant
- 3) Presentation of Mohammed Bello Tukur, CORET
- 4) Presentation of Hissein Hadji Tchere, EU Delegation in the Rep. of Chad
- 5) Presentation of Stefan Essel, GIZ Head office



Source: Stefan Essel, GIZ

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/news-partner/transboundary-pastoralism.html>***

## Annex III: Side Events

GIZ – Vers und projet triangulaire trilatéral : Afrique centrale – Chine – Allemagne : Tropical Timber Trade Facility



### Tropical Timber Trade Facility (TTT) – un futur projet trilatéral

Promotion du commerce des bois tropicaux et des produits dérivés légaux et/ ou durables tout au long de la chaîne d'approvisionnement de l'Afrique centrale vers les marchés internationaux en passant par la Chine

#### Draft des objectifs de TTT

##### Objectif global de TTT

Les chaînes d'approvisionnement en bois tropicaux contribuent à la conservation à long-terme des forêts, au climat et à la protection de la biodiversité dans les forêts d'Afrique centrale.

##### Objectif spécifique de TTT

La production industrielle de bois tropicaux dans les forêts d'Afrique centrale est de plus en plus basée sur une gestion légale des forêts, au moins audité, et avec une traçabilité crédible.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/meetings-news/Central-Africa-China-Germany.html>***

Dr Ralph RIDDER  
GIZ Chine  
8 juillet 2022

Supporté par



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



Federal Ministry  
of Food  
and Agriculture

### Annex III: Side Events

REPALEAC, GIZ - REPALEAC to mobilize \$100 million for forest and land rights of indigenous peoples in Central Africa

## MOP19 – CBFP : REPALEAC to mobilize \$100 million for forest and land rights of indigenous peoples in Central Africa

During a side event organised on the sidelines of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties of the CBFP in Libreville, the Network of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities of Central Africa (REPALEAC) presented its strategy to mobilise 100 million US dollars for recognition and securing of land and forest rights of the indigenous and local communities it represents. This financing is part of the Glasgow 1.7 billion pledge for PACL land tenure rights.



Side event

REPALEAC

In his speech, Joseph ITONGWA, REPALEAC's regional coordinator, reiterated that the PACLs of Central Africa are the first guardians of this vast forest, which they have been protecting for generations, thus contributing to the survival of the entire planet.



In this light, the REPALEAC Regional Coordinator called for a paradigm shift in the granting of Glasgow finances and urged the 22 committed donors to ensure that the 1.7 billion pledge actually reaches the target populations. Guided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant instruments on the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, he also stressed the importance of a transparent and inclusive mechanism type for granting these finances. This side-event was an opportunity for

REPALEAC meeting with Philippe Lacoste

REPALEAC to present the guidelines of its action programme to promote land and forest rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in Central Africa, which is currently being developed with the technical support of the GIZ Regional Support Project for COMIFAC.

Likewise, earlier in the day, the REPALEAC delegation met with Mr. Philip Lacoste, Director of Sustainable Development at the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. This meeting was an indication of future close collaboration between France and the indigenous peoples of Central Africa.

**For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/meetings-news/indigenous-peoples.html>**

## Annex III: Side Events

REPALEAC - Advocating for improved land and forest tenure for indigenous peoples in Central Africa

# REPALEAC: Advocating for improved land and forest tenure for indigenous peoples in Central Africa

04.07.2022

4/7/2022 - With the support of the GIZ - COMIFAC regional project, REPALEAC convened in Libreville to actively participate in the #MOP19. The aim of this meeting was to explore approaches for implementing the Glasgow Declaration for indigenous peoples.



REPALEAC delegation to the MOP19



Central Africa's indigenous peoples in a working session for a better consideration of their voice



REPALEAC delegation to the MOP19

COP26 in November 2021 at Glasgow was marked by a financing pledge of 1.7 billion dollars by 22 donors to defend the rights and improve the living conditions of indigenous peoples.

In the wake of COP26, the Libreville meetings represent a prime advocacy platform for REPALEAC, as they aim to raise international awareness on the importance of improving land and forest tenure for indigenous peoples and local communities in Central Africa.

For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/news-partner/REPALEAC-Advocating.html>



### Annex III: Side Events

LLF, WCS, APN, ZGF, WWF - Conservation et mesures de sauvegarde : Sauvegardes sociales et des droits de l'homme dans la conservation –synergies et leçons apprises



Resumé Side Event: 07/07/22, Legacy Landscape Fund (LLF), 14:30-16 pm, Salle Libreville 2

#### Conservation et mesures de sauvegarde :

#### Sauvegardes sociales et des droits de l'homme dans la conservation –synergies et leçons apprises

Co-organisé par LLF, WCS, APN, ZGF (via Armitage consulting), WWF  
Participation online et sur site avec traduction simultanée en Français/Anglais

Le Legacy Landscapes Fund a organisé cette session avec **l'intention de partager les bonnes pratiques et de créer des synergies et des leçons à tirer entre les acteurs de la conservation dans l'application des sauvegardes sociales et des droits de l'homme dans la conservation**. Le Legacy Landscapes Fund est un fonds fiduciaire de conservation qui vise à protéger à perpétuité certains des paysages les plus importants pour la biodiversité et le climat sur cette planète. Il est donc de la plus haute importance pour toutes les parties prenantes concernées que ces paysages dits 'Legacy Landscapes' soient gérés conformément aux garanties environnementales et sociales afin de prévenir et d'atténuer tout impact négatif potentiel que toute action pourrait avoir sur l'environnement lui-même, mais aussi sur le staff et les populations indigènes et locales qui vivent dans et autour de ces paysages.

Après une brève présentation de la LLF elle-même, **des représentants de WCS, APN, WWF et FZS/Armitage Consulting** ont présenté et discuté des apprentissages, des synergies et des défis autour des partenariats locaux, des mesures de gouvernance, des mécanismes de plainte et du développement de systèmes de gestion environnementale et sociale.

La première présentation était donnée par **Dr. Ilka Herbing**, directrice des mesures de sauvegarde environnementales et sociales au Legacy Landscapes Fund. Elle a donné **un aperçu sur les objectifs et le fonctionnement du LLF**, sur la mise en oeuvre de son système de sauvegardes environnementales et sociales au sein de l'institution elle-même et enfin, sur sa façon de soutenir les approches dans les sites dits 'Legacy Landscapes' avec lesquels elle travaille.

La deuxième intervention a porté sur **la gouvernance** et comment mesurer l'efficacité d'une bonne gouvernance de la part de WCS à travers des exemples en Bolivie, Madidi Landscape et concernant des approches participatives (p.e. FPIC/CLIP) dans le bassin de Congo. Les personnes suivantes sont intervenues : **Lilian Painter**, qui dirige le programme WCS Bolivie, également spécialiste principale en gouvernance de la région Andes Amazon Orinoquia, **Oscar Loayza**, agronome et directeur adjoint du paysage du Grand Madidi en Bolivie et **Michelle Wieland**, la directrice Afrique du programme WCS Droits et Communautés.

La troisième intervention a porté sur la **collaboration de APN avec une organisation locale de droits humains** en République du Congo et sur la présentation d'une approche institutionnalisée d'APN en matière de droits humains. **Clémence De Meslon**, qui est la Coordinatrice régionale Droits humains au sein d'APN, a discuté des opportunités et des défis de telles collaborations et approches.

La quatrième intervention a porté sur les **mécanismes de plaintes et recours** et les expériences du WWF avec différents modèles dans la région, présentée par **Eric Parfait Essomba**. Eric est le directeur régional sauvegardes environnementales et sociales Afrique au sein du WWF. La question de l'indépendance et le fonctionnement d'un mécanisme de plainte et recours a fait l'objet de débats.

### **Annex III: Side Events**

*LLF, WCS, APN, ZGF, WWF* - Conservation et mesures de sauvegarde : Sauvegardes sociales et des droits de l'homme dans la conservation –synergies et leçons apprises

La cinquième et dernière présentation a été fait par **Nyundo Armitage**, un environnementaliste agréé, qui travaille ensemble avec la Société Zoologique de Francfort /FZS dans une aire protégée en Zambie à North Luangwa où il est en train d'aider le parc à développer et implémenter un **Système de Sauvegardes environnementale et social**. Il a parlé de ces retours d'expériences d'instaurer un tel système sur place.

La meilleure façon de faire des garanties sociales et des droits de l'homme un élément intégrateur de la conservation est un sujet d'importance. Le Legacy Landscapes Fund a inscrit la sauvegarde environnementale et sociale à toutes les étapes de son soutien aux aires protégées de son portefeuille et vise à continuer à contribuer au partage des connaissances, des bonnes pratiques et des leçons apprises autour de cet important sujet.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-rdp/conservation-synergies.html>***

## Annex III: Side Events

SWM - Participatory, science-based and community rights-based development of sustainable village hunting models: experiences and prospects in the Congo Basin



## Participatory, science-based and community rights-based development of sustainable village hunting models: experiences and prospects in the Congo Basin

*Side event organized by the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme on the 07/07 from 1pm to 3pm*

In Central Africa, traditional village hunting and fishing today combine with growing demand from urban wild meat/fish consumers and wildlife habitat degradation/destruction. These cumulative pressures increasingly threaten forest wildlife, though at varying levels across the sub-region. But where high, they have already depleted populations of hunted species, depriving indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) of an essential source of food, income and cultural identity.

As evidenced by the adoption in 2016 of a sub-regional strategy for the use of wildlife by IPLCs in Central Africa within the framework of the COMIFAC, involved states are aware of the need to reconsider their wildlife policies and management systems to manage to reconcile biodiversity conservation with human well-being, including for the most vulnerable communities. More recently, the COVID-19 crisis has raised the concerns about global zoonotic risks originating from wildlife and recalled the need to prevent and mitigate disease spill over risks associated to uncontrolled wild meat value chains from the “forest to the fork”. But it has also highlighted the difficulty to ensure dedicated measures do not negatively impact IPLC’ rights.

The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme, a global initiative funded by the European Union, has brought together in this side event its pilot projects (Congo, DRC, Gabon) and other initiatives in the subregion (Darwin initiative in South Dja reserve, Cameroon; project led by the Association Nsombou Abalge-Dzal (NADA) in the Ogooué Ivindo province, Gabon; and the USFWS/USAID-funded Wildmeat project) to present a starting collaborative dynamic aiming at supporting Central African states in promoting evidence-based, effective and equitable wildlife management models to address those interconnected challenges.

First a series of presentations have showcased bottom-up approaches to co-develop and field test different models of participatory wildlife management with communities in a variety of contexts. This was also the opportunity to launch [the report presenting the first findings from the SWM project in Gabon](#). Then, the [wildmeat project website](#) and the [SWM Programme legal hub](#), that include thematic databases and toolkits providing multi-disciplinary evidences for wild meat research, practice, policy and legal reforms in Central Africa, have been presented. Finally, illustrations of the way these sources of information are going to be used to effectively support countries willing to engage in wildmeat policy reforms have been presented (so far Gabon, DRC, Cameroon), including through a subregional working group that will allow exchanges of experience and expertise with support from a Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP) project.

Key messages from the side event include:

- The diversity of socio-ecological, cultural, demographic, epidemiologic and economic contexts in the subregion, requires different wildlife management models to best fit local realities, and, doing so, be better accepted by users and more effective. To develop those models, multi-disciplinary approaches that consider all three – ecological, economic and social – dimensions of sustainability are needed.
- However, there is a growing interest to promote participatory management models that empower and directly involve IPLC in wildlife governance and management, including through the recognition of customary laws and practices. Especially those models could prove effective at meeting sustainability objectives where capacities for ‘business-as-usual’ statutory law enforcement strategies are limited.
- Developing and scaling up those models require a real shift of paradigm that can only be possible with significant and long enough initial investment, given the complex and long-term processes

### **Annex III: Side Events**

*SWM* - Participatory, science-based and community rights-based development of sustainable village hunting models: experiences and prospects in the Congo Basin

involved, including behaviour changes and law reforms. But most of all, it requires effective political will from all stakeholders to address key challenges that are common across the subregion, such as, *inter alia*, inadequate land and natural resource tenure regimes, weak and disconnected statutory and customary governance systems, lack of capacities of communities and duty bearers supporting them to manage wildlife and its uses.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/news-partner/Experiences-prospects.html>***

### Annex III: Side Events

USG - Launching CARPE IV Event – United States Government's renewed commitment to the Congo Basin



## UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO RENEW ITS ENDURING COMMITMENT TO THE CONGO BASIN

*Libreville – Gabon. The United States Government is renewing its longstanding commitment to the protection, conservation, and sustainable management of the Congo Basin, the world's second largest tropical rainforest with the launch of the fourth phase of the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment, also known as CARPE. The U.S. Embassy in Libreville detailed the U.S. government's renewed commitment to the Congo Basin at the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Meeting of Parties held July 5-8, 2022, in Libreville, Gabon.*



Launched by former United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, and the Central African Heads of State at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the CBFP is a multi-stakeholder partnership to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems, combat climate change, and reduce poverty in Central African countries.

To date, USAID/CARPE in partnership with, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Forest Service, has invested over \$600 million in biodiversity research, mapping and conservation, livelihoods enhancement, economic development, and climate change mitigation since 1995 through the first three phases of CARPE.

The U.S. delegation was led by Dr. Diana Putman, the Acting Assistant Administrator of USAID's Bureau for Africa. A career Senior Foreign Service Officer and second-generation development specialist, Dr. Putman has spent most of her life overseas and has worked for USAID for 39 years, including five years as Mission Director in the Democratic Republic of the Congo where she oversaw CARPE.

Some of the major achievements of CARPE in the region include:

### **Annex III: Side Events**

*USG - Launching CARPE IV Event – United States Government's renewed commitment to the Congo Basin*

- Raising awareness of the Congo Basin Forest as a globally important ecosystem for biodiversity and climate change mitigation to the entire world.
- CARPE has supported some of the world's leading remote sensing work that has led to near real time forest monitoring capacity. The development of four landscape planning guides for forest management that are now adopted by all CBFP country members through the Central African Forest Commission.
- The development of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool known as SMART in protected areas throughout the region to ensure park management decisions are based on the best information possible.
- The strengthening of wildlife law enforcement across many of the major protected areas in Central Africa, which is showing significant impact in terms of reduced poaching

**CARPE IV will build on earlier successes and lessons learned and support the vision of a Congo Basin with healthy ecosystems and dynamic local leadership that supports stability and prosperity in communities.**

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/meetings-news/CBFPMoP19-USG.html>***

### **Annex III: Side Events**

WWF, IUCN - African Forest Elephants - Update on field activities and reflections on joint efforts to ensure their long-term conservation and coexistence with people



### **Session Report:**

### **African Forest Elephants - Update on field activities and reflections on joint efforts to ensure their long-term conservation and coexistence with people**

**Lead of the session:** Thomas BREUER - WWF Germany / IUCN AfESG

**Composition of the panel:** Steeve NGAMA – IRAF / CENAREST; Gaspard ABITSI - WCS Gabon; Serge MIBAMBANIA – MINEF Gabon; Paul NGORAN - WWF Congo Basin

### **Introduction**

Forest elephant conservation remains a concern in the Congo Basin. During the 19th Meeting of the Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), an event was organised on Wednesday 06 July from 14:30 to 16:00 to present the general situation of forest elephants and the challenges related to their conservation. This report summarises the various points discussed, focusing on "updates on field activities and reflections on joint longterm conservation efforts to achieve coexistence with local human populations".

### **Objectives of the workshop**

The overall objective of this workshop was to mobilise more partners for a synergy of efforts for the preservation of this species which is at the centre of the ecological processes of the Congo Basin forests. Specifically, it aimed to

- Bring together the different technical partners to share experiences on forest elephants and their coexistence with humans.
- To raise awareness among CBFP partners on the importance of continuing to support conservation actions for the last remaining populations of forest elephants.

### **Workshop sessions**

This workshop was divided into four sessions. The first session introduced the new taxonomy of African elephants and the conservation status of forest elephants and introduced the workshop objectives. This was followed by the different methods and results of monitoring forest elephant populations and monitoring elephant crop damage and conservation strategies. The third part dealt with methods of mitigating human-elephant conflict and the importance of human-elephant co-existence through a holistic approach. The last session consisted of an exchange on the current laws and approaches to anti-poaching and elephant protection and practical cases of successful law enforcement.

### **Annex III: Side Events**

*WWF, IUCN - African Forest Elephants - Update on field activities and reflections on joint efforts to ensure their long-term conservation and coexistence with people*

#### **Statut of forest elephants**

Forest elephants are now recognised as a separate species. They are listed as critically endangered, with a heterogeneous geographical distribution. Poaching for ivory and habitat loss are the main causes that threaten the preservation of forest elephants. Poaching is exacerbated by human-elephant conflict, while habitat loss exacerbates human-elephant conflict; this worsens the perception of people in the vicinity of the forest elephants' home range. Human-elephant conflict is an issue that transcends the field of conservation biology and is at the heart of political issues in many forest elephant range countries.

#### **Monitoring**

This session provided an opportunity for a global review of activities that have recently been carried out or are currently being carried out in the countries of the Congo Basin in relation to the monitoring and counting of elephant populations and the damage they cause in agricultural areas. It should be noted that many initiatives have been and are being carried out that have led to a good understanding of the status of the forest elephant. For example, elephants know no borders and can be on the move both inside and outside protected areas. However, much remains to be done to ensure the preservation of the remaining elephant populations without compromising the well-being of the communities living in their natural habitat.

#### **Conflict mitigation method and human-elephant coexistence**

This session clarified the subsidiary, though indispensable, role of human-elephant conflict mitigation methods. It underlined the importance for conservation actors to work towards human-elephant coexistence, which is the only way to ensure the preservation of elephants and the well-being of local communities. It should be remembered that true human-elephant coexistence is a state of cohabitation where the well-being of humans and elephants is ensured in a sustainable manner. As elephants are in the same natural environment as humans, with mutual aggression linked to conflicts of interest between the two and among humans, this state of coexistence can only be achieved if communities exceed the levels of tolerance and acceptance of elephants. To achieve these innovative ways of valuing the presence of elephants must be developed and promoted.

#### **Traditional anti-poaching and inclusive conservation approaches**

The session on enforcement of traditional law and inclusive conservation approaches was an opportunity to fully engage the audience. Success stories were presented on the capacity of local communities to contribute significantly to the conservation of forest elephants.

#### **Discussion and outlook**

Each session was marked by constructive exchanges. From these exchanges it is worth noting that:



### **Annex III: Side Events**

*WWF, IUCN* - African Forest Elephants - Update on field activities and reflections on joint efforts to ensure their long-term conservation and coexistence with people

- Many efforts have been made and are underway to preserve elephants in all the countries of the Congo Basin in and around protected areas by ensuring the connectivity of their populations.
- Forest elephant conservation actors are encouraged to harmonise their methods (especially for size estimation) and share their experiences and initiate collaborative projects that include partnerships with extractive industries.
- Human-elephant coexistence is a necessity for elephant conservation and the well-being of local communities - only holistic approaches can ensure long-term success as mitigations in isolation (e.g., insurance) will not succeed and are considered like Aspirin for a disease.
- The participation and inclusion of local and indigenous communities is strongly encouraged for better protection of forest elephants and their high conservation value areas.
- Other threats, such as the effects of climate change and its effects on forest elephants and their habitats need to be investigated.
- Initiatives such as carbon credits, wildlife credits and other funding for biodiversity and ecosystem services should be tested and implemented if successful.

### **Contributions**

This workshop was carried out with the support of the following partners: National Parc Agencies, Ministries in charge of Wildlife and Forests, AJESEC, Chengeta Wildlife, Duke University, Elephant Listening Project, FAO, Hack the Planet, IRAF-CENAREST, IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group, Panthera, Rebalance Earth, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Space for Giants, Traffic, Université de Liège/Gembloux, WCS, WWF.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/meetings-news/coexistence-people.html>***

## Annex III: Side Events

WWF - Suivi des impacts des programmes de conservation : Quelques exemples du WWF dans le bassin du Congo



### PARTENARIAT POUR LES FORETS DU BASSIN DU CONGO

19<sup>ème</sup> Réunion des Parties: Libreville, 5 – 8 Juillet 2022



### Présentation d'événement parallèle – Side Event

**Thème : Suivi des impacts des programmes de conservation : Quelques exemples du WWF dans le bassin du Congo.**

**Dr N'GORAN K. Paul**, *Coordinateur du Suivi Ecologique pour le Bassin du Congo, WWF*

**Programme exécuté :** Date: 07/07/2022

Lieu: Salle Libreville 2

Heure: 13h40 – 14h30

- **Note Introductive:** Dr Jean BAKOUMA, *Directeur de Conservation pour le bassin du Congo (WWF)*
- **Présentations Orales:** *Stratégie de Suivi du WWF dans le Bassin du Congo Quelques exemples de résultats du WWF dans le bassin du Congo*
- **Contribution aux présentations :** **Stéphane LE DUC YENO (WWF Gabon), Menard MBENDE (WWF RDC)**
- **Modérateur :** **Gilles ETOGA (WWF Cameroun)**
- **Questions-Réponses et Conclusion Générale**

## Bilan de la session

### Contexte

Depuis plus de trois décennies, le WWF met en oeuvre des programmes de conservation dans le bassin du Congo, en collaboration avec les gouvernements locaux, les communautés locales et plusieurs autres organisations. Afin d'assurer une gestion adaptative et une évaluation efficaces des activités de conservation menées par le WWF et ses partenaires, un programme de suivi écologique a été initié en 2014. Avec une stratégie validée depuis 2017, ce programme a pour objectif de mettre en place un système adéquat de suivi et d'évaluation des efforts inclusifs de conservation tout en garantissant la démonstration des impacts, incluant les impacts sociaux étant donné que les communautés locales ont une place primordiale dans toutes les programmes de conservation.

### La stratégie

Le programme s'articule autour de cinq axes stratégiques : La collecte de données fiables pour soutenir la gestion ; Le suivi et l'évaluation des programmes ; Le renforcement de capacités pour améliorer la performance ; La communication, la gestion et la valorisation des données ; et la recherche de partenariats et de financements. Il se compose de sept piliers principaux de suivi, élaborés sur la base des stratégies de conservation des différents pays (Cameroun, Congo, Gabon, RCA & RDC).

### Résultats

La tenue de cet événement parallèle a permis de présenter la stratégie de suivi des impacts ainsi que ses fondements ; avec une démonstration d'impacts sur plusieurs sites, permettant d'informer les participants sur l'état de conservation de certaines aires protégées du bassin du Congo. Les gestionnaires des Aires Protégées, les ONGs de conservation, les Bailleurs de fonds, les Biologistes de la conservation et les autres participants présents, ont bénéficié du partage d'expériences du WWF en matière de suivi des impacts de conservation à travers un programme structuré.



Exécuté par giz



### Annex III: Side Events

WWF - Suivi des impacts des programmes de conservation : Quelques exemples du WWF dans le bassin du Congo

#### Conclusion

Ce partage d'expériences du WWF dans le bassin du Congo ouvre des possibilités de collaboration avec d'autres institutions et représente un exemple à suivre dans pour la gestion des forêts du Bassin du Congo. Bien que des efforts importants aient été fournis et des résultats satisfaisants obtenus jusqu'à présent, des défis majeurs subsistent, pour déployer la stratégie à 100%. Les bailleurs de fonds et les partenaires techniques potentiels sont invités à accompagner cette mission afin de garantir aux populations du Coeur Vert de l'Afrique, des services écosystémiques durables.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-rdp/exemples-WWF.html>***



## **Annex IV: Annexed Partner Meetings**

# Summary of CAFI's two side-events at the margins of the CBFP MoP19 in Libreville, Gabon, July 2022

### **Annual Forum of the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)**

Libreville, 6 July 2022

CAFI's Annual Forum 2022 successfully created a space for dialogue and exchange amongst more than 100 technical-level representatives from civil society organisations, implementing organisations and governments in CAFI's partner countries in the Congo Basin, as well as technical-level representatives of CAFI's Executive Board. The event allowed stakeholders to address and discuss progress towards the objectives of the Letters of Intent signed between CAFI and three Central African countries (DR Congo, Republic of Congo and Gabon), lessons learnt and recommendations for the way forward. Furthermore, the event facilitated joint reflections on strengths and concerns raised by the civil society with regards to the implementation of the objectives of the partnerships set up by CAFI. The event was moderated by Ms. Marit Hjort from the CAFI Secretariat.



The forum consisted of three panels, each of them covering questions specific to one of the following CAFI partner countries: Gabon, the DR Congo and the Republic of Congo. Each panel consisted of four panellists, representing the government of the country in focus, CAFI's Executive Board, implementing organisations and the civil society, respectively. As part of each panel, civil society representatives in the audience (in the room and online) were given the chance to ask questions to the panellists. The discussions that followed allowed clarifying existing arrangements and exploring possible new opportunities for involving civil society organisations in the governance and activities related to CAFI's programmes. The participants also highlighted the importance of awareness raising and a fair distribution of benefits relating to carbon credit mechanisms. Further, the panellists and audience discussed the progress towards the objectives of CAFI's programmes in the three partner countries, and highlighted next steps to scale up results.

In his closing remarks on behalf of CAFI's Executive Board, Mr Tony Baumann from the German government thanked the participants for sharing their valuable reflections and feedback, which demonstrate the relevance and importance of the CAFI initiative to a large number of stakeholders. He further highlighted CAFI's commitment to sustaining the dialogue with civil society organisations, through the governance and monitoring structures of the programmes supported by CAFI as well as through dedicated consultation fora.

## Annex IV: Annexed Partner Meetings

CAFI - High-level roundtable on the vision 2030 for the Central African Forest Initiative

### High-level roundtable on the vision 2030 for the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)

Libreville, 7 July 2022

CAFI's high-level roundtable provided a space for fruitful dialogue and joint reflection amongst high-level representatives from CAFI's donor and partner countries as well as key technical partners. The high-level representatives addressed lessons learnt from the partnerships established by CAFI, as well as the opportunities and perspectives for continued policy dialogue and enhanced results. The event was moderated by the Head of the CAFI Secretariat, Ms. Berta Pesti.



The following high-level representatives of CAFI's financial, strategic and technical partners intervened during the event, sharing their vision for the future of CAFI, emphasizing the strengths of the initiative as well as suggestions for improved outcomes:

Country/organization	Title and name
Republic of Gabon (Host)	His Excellency the Minister of Waters, Forests, Sea and Environment, Dr. Lee White
Republic of Gabon (Host)	Permanent Secretary of the National Climate Council, Mr. Tanguy Gahouma
Republic of Congo	Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Forest Economy, Mr. Pierre Taty
Democratic Republic of Congo	Deputy Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Finance, Ms Ginette Nzau-Muteta
COMIFAC and Cameroon	President of COMIFAC and Minister of Wildlife and Forests, Mr. Jules Ndongo Doret
Germany	His Excellency the State Secretary of Economic Development and Cooperation, Mr. Jochen Flasbarth
France	Director of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Philippe Lacoste
Norway	Special Envoy of the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Mr. Hans Brattskar
United Kingdom	Head of International Forests Unit, Department for business, energy and industrial strategy, Ms. Maggie Charnley
United Nations, Gabon	Resident Coordinator, Ms. Savina Ammassari
United Nations Development Programme, Gabon	Resident Representative, Mr. Francis James
The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Gabon	Director, Ms. Marie Claire Paiz
French Development Agency (AFD)	Director of the Department of Ecological Transitions and Natural Resources, Dr. Gilles Kleitz

The high-level representatives of the donor and partner countries reached consensus on a set of proposed solutions aimed at improving their collaboration and strengthening the partner countries' national ownership of the partnerships. Amongst others, they suggested organising more frequent meetings with the donor representatives in the Central African region; enhancing high-level representation in the policy dialogue between donor and partner countries; facilitating and promoting the participation of eligible national technical partners in the implementation of programme objectives, and ramping up capacity building of national entities. Finally, the partners agreed to continue their joint dialogue on matters related to the governance of CAFI, and to translate their vision into concrete next steps in due course.

## Annex IV: Annexed Partner Meetings

COMIFAC - Communiqué final : Treizième atelier du sous-groupe de travail sur les aires protégées et la faune sauvage de la COMIFAC (SGTAPFS)



# Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale

*Une dimension régionale pour la conservation  
et la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers*

## TREIZIEME ATELIER DU SOUS-GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR LES AIRES PROTEGEES ET LA FAUNE SAUVAGE DE LA COMIFAC (SGTAPFS)

# COMMUNIQUE FINAL

*Libreville, République Gabonaise, 11 au 15 juillet 2022*

#### Annex IV: Annexed Partner Meetings

COMIFAC - Communiqué final : Treizième atelier du sous-groupe de travail sur les aires protégées et la faune sauvage de la COMIFAC (SGTAPFS)

Du 11 au 15 juillet 2022, s'est tenu à Libreville en République Gabonaise, le 13<sup>ème</sup> Atelier du Sous-Groupe de Travail sur les Aires Protégées et la Faune Sauvage (SGTAPFS) de la Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC). Cet atelier a été organisé par le Secrétariat Exécutif de cette institution avec l'appui technique et financier de la Coopération allemande à travers le projet GIZ d'appui régional à la COMIFAC, de l'Union Européenne à travers le Programme ECOFAC VI et de WCS. Il avait pour principal objectif d'adopter une position commune des pays de l'espace COMIFAC sur les propositions d'amendement des annexes de la CITES, en prélude à la dix-neuvième Conférence des Parties (CdP 19) à la CITES prévue du 14 au 25 novembre 2022 au Panama. Plus spécifiquement, il s'agissait :

- d'informer les parties prenantes impliquées dans la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique centrale sur les propositions d'inscription des espèces *Khaya spp*, *Azelia spp* et *Pterocarpus spp* à l'Annexe II de la CITES ;
- de faire le point sur le potentiel des espèces ciblées dans les différents pays membres de la COMIFAC (structure des peuplements, quantités exploitées, commercialisées et exportées, les menaces, etc.) ;
- de recueillir les observations des pays membres de la COMIFAC sur les propositions d'amendement initiées par l'Union Européenne ;
- d'adopter les positions communes concernant ces propositions d'inscription des genres *Khaya spp*, *Azelia spp* et *Pterocarpus spp* à l'Annexe II de la CITES ;
- d'échanger sur la participation de la COMIFAC et ses pays membres au 1<sup>er</sup> Congrès Africain sur les Aires Protégées (APAC) qui se tiendra à Kigali, Rwanda du 18 au 23 juillet 2022 ;
- d'examiner et valider le Guide sous-régional sur l'approche du Consentement Libre Informé et Préalable (CLIP) dans la gestion des aires protégées en Afrique Centrale et leurs zones périphériques ;
- d'examiner et valider le rapport de l'étude sur les mobiles des allégations relatives au respect des droits de l'homme et sur la participation des Peuples Autochtones et Communautés Locales (PACL) dans la création et la gestion des aires protégées en Afrique centrale ;
- d'examiner et valider la Boite à outils sous-régionale sur le respect des droits humains dans la création et la gestion des aires protégées en Afrique centrale ;
- d'examiner et valider le référentiel métier et compétences standardisé pour la sous-région ;
- d'examiner et valider le curriculum et des dispositifs de formation standardisés pour former les éco gardes en Afrique centrale.

#### Annex IV: Annexed Partner Meetings

COMIFAC - Communiqué final : Treizième atelier du sous-groupe de travail sur les aires protégées et la faune sauvage de la COMIFAC (SGTAPFS)

Y ont pris part en présentiel et par Visio Conférence, une trentaine de participants composés des responsables des administrations en charge des forêts, de la faune et des aires protégées, des représentants des autorités CITES pour la flore et la faune sauvages et les Coordonnateurs Nationaux COMIFAC des pays suivants : Cameroun, Gabon, Guinée Equatoriale, République Centrafricaine, République Démocratique du Congo, Rwanda et Tchad, les représentants des agences nationales, organisations sous-régionales et internationales et initiatives suivantes : COMIFAC, CEEAC, OCFSA, ANPN Gabon, Ecole de Faune de Garoua, ANAFOR – Cameroun, Programme GIZ de Gestion durable des Forêts dans le Bassin du Congo, ECOFAC VI, WWF, TRAFFIC.

L'atelier a démarré par la cérémonie d'ouverture marquée par trois interventions à savoir : les considérations préliminaires par M. Chouaibou NCHOUTPOUEN, Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint et Coordonnateur Technique de la COMIFAC, le mot de circonstance de M. Martial NKOLO, Directeur du Programme GIZ de Gestion Durable des Forêts dans le Bassin du Congo et le Discours d'ouverture du Dr Hervé Martial MAIDOU, Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMIFAC.

Prenant tout d'abord la parole en lieu et place du Pilote du GTBAC, le Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint de la COMIFAC a rappelé le contexte dans lequel se tient cet atelier, contexte marqué par les propositions d'inscription des espèces *Khaya spp*, *Azizium spp* et *Pterocarpus spp* à l'Annexe II de la CITES. Poursuivant son propos, il a souligné l'importance de cette réunion qui permettra aux pays de l'espace COMIFAC d'adopter une position commune en prélude à leur participation à la 19<sup>ème</sup> Conférence des Parties à la Convention CITES. Aussi, a-t-il informé les participants de l'élaboration par le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC, des outils techniques et autres supports concourant à la mise en oeuvre du Plan de convergence et qui devront faire l'objet de leur examen par les participants.

Le Directeur du Programme GIZ de gestion durable des forêts dans le Bassin du Congo a, au nom de la Coopération technique allemande remercié le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC pour l'avoir associé à l'organisation de cet atelier. Il a relevé que les résultats de cette réunion méritent une attention particulière car, ils sont déterminants pour l'avenir de la conservation des écosystèmes forestiers de la sous-région Afrique centrale. Il a rappelé la tenue prochaine des événements internationaux tels que la 19<sup>ème</sup> CdP à la CITES et le 1<sup>er</sup> Congrès Africain sur les Aires Protégées (APAC). Ces événements internationaux représentent a-t-il poursuivi, de grandes opportunités pour notre sous-région, et méritent que les représentants des pays membres de la COMIFAC se réunissent pour accorder leurs violons et parler d'une seule voix, afin d'assurer une participation réussie de l'Afrique centrale.



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Le Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMIFAC a d'entrée de jeu, invité les participants à observer une minute de silence en la mémoire de M. Raymond NDOMBA NGOYE, ancien Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMIFAC décédé le 18 juin 2022. Il a ensuite remercié les participants pour avoir répondu favorablement à l'invitation de la COMIFAC, le gouvernement gabonais pour avoir accepté que cet atelier se tienne à Libreville ainsi que la Coopération allemande à travers la GIZ, l'Union Européenne à travers le programme ECOFAC VI et le WCS pour les appuis ayant permis la tenue de cet atelier. Après avoir rappelé les objectifs de l'atelier, il a exhorté les participants à s'outiller efficacement afin d'adopter une position commune sur les propositions d'inscription des espèces *Khaya spp*, *Afzelia spp* et *Pterocarpus spp* à l'Annexe II de la CITES allant dans le sens des priorités nationales et des politiques de développement des Etats de la sous-région.

Les interventions de la cérémonie protocolaire ont été suivies par la présentation des participants et des objectifs de l'atelier, ainsi que la mise en place du bureau composé comme suit :

**Président : M. Jacques MOULOUNGOU**, Coordonnateur National COMIFAC du Gabon ;

**Vice-Président : M. Anicet NGOMIN**, Directeur des Forêts au Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune du Cameroun ;

**1<sup>er</sup> Rapporteur : M. Barthelemy DIPAPOUNDJI**, Directeur intérimaire de la Faune et des Aires Protégées au Ministère des Eaux, Forêts, Chasse et Pêche de la République Centrafricaine ;

**2<sup>ème</sup> Rapporteur : M. Hamid ABDARAMANE CHAIBO**, Directeur de la Faune et des Aires Protégées au Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Pêche et du Développement Durable du Tchad ;

**Secrétariat : M. Valérie TCHUANTE TITE**, Expert en Suivi Evaluation de la COMIFAC.

Les travaux se sont poursuivis par l'adoption de l'agenda qui s'articulait autour des sessions suivantes :

1. Question d'information et de suivi
2. Préparation de la participation de la sous-région à la 19<sup>ème</sup> Conférence des Parties à la Convention CITES
3. Restitution des études sur les droits humains
4. Participation au 1<sup>er</sup> Congrès Africain sur les Aires Protégées
5. Restitution des études sur la formation forestière

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COMIFAC - Communiqué final : Treizième atelier du sous-groupe de travail sur les aires protégées et la faune sauvage de la COMIFAC (SGTAPFS)

Pour chacune des sessions, des présentations ont été faites en plénière, suivies des échanges qui se sont poursuivis dans les groupes de travail.

Au terme des débats et des restitutions en plénière, les participants ont pris des résolutions et formulé des recommandations suivantes :

#### **S'agissant des questions d'information et de suivi,**

Les participants ont pris acte du niveau d'avancement de la mise en oeuvre des recommandations de la 12<sup>ème</sup> réunion du SGTAPFS.

Ils recommandent :

- ❖ Au Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC d'actualiser la liste des membres de la plate-forme AFRICA TWIX en concertation avec TRAFFIC.

#### **Sur la préparation de la participation de la sous-région à la 19<sup>ème</sup> Conférence des Parties à la Convention CITES,**

Les participants ont :

- rejeté en bloc les propositions d'inscription des espèces *Khaya spp*, *Afzelia spp* et *Pterocarpus spp* à l'Annexe II de la CITES ;
- encouragé le Tchad, le Gabon, le Cameroun et le Congo à envoyer leur candidature au Secrétariat Général de la CITES pour la constitution des Comités CITES ;
- identifié les points prioritaires pour la sous-région inscrits à l'ordre du jour de la CdP 19 CITES devant faire l'objet d'un examen approfondi lors de la réunion préparatoire sous-régionale en vue de l'adoption des positions communes.

Les participants invitent les pays à :

1. défendre les positions communes lors des négociations pendant la CdP 19 CITES ;
2. transmettre au Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC, une note argumentée de la position nationale sur le potentiel des espèces ciblées, basée sur les éléments scientifiques ;
3. utiliser les canaux diplomatiques pour rechercher les soutiens auprès d'autres Etats parties à la CITES ;
4. utiliser entre autres la base de données AFRICA TWIX pour l'élaboration des rapports CITES sur le commerce des espèces sauvages ;
5. mobiliser les ressources internes et externes en vue d'étoffer les délégations des pays en qualité et en quantité, pour leur participation à la CdP 19 CITES.

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Les participants recommandent :

❖ *Au Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC :*

6. de finaliser la note de position commune des pays de la COMIFAC sur ces propositions ;
7. d'organiser la prochaine réunion du SGTAPFS préparatoire à la CdP 19 CITES avant la tenue de la réunion du Groupe Afrique ;
8. de mobiliser les ressources en vue d'étoffer les délégations des pays de la COMIFAC, pour leur participation à la CdP 19 CITES.

#### **S'agissant de la restitution des études sur les droits humains,**

Les participants ont validé :

- le guide sous-régional sur l'approche du CLIP dans la création et la gestion des aires protégées et leurs zones périphériques en Afrique centrale sous réserve des amendements à apporter audit guide ;
- le rapport de l'étude sur les mobiles des allégations relatives au respect des droits humains et sur la participation des Populations Autochtones et Communautés Locales (PACL) dans la création et la gestion des aires protégées en Afrique centrale sous réserve des amendements à apporter audit rapport ;
- la boîte à outils sous-régionale sur le respect des droits humains dans la création et la gestion des aires protégées en Afrique centrale sous réserve des amendements à apporter à ladite boîte à outils.

Ils recommandent :

❖ *Au Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC :*

9. de finaliser le guide sous-régional sur l'approche du CLIP dans la création et la gestion des aires protégées en Afrique centrale et leurs zones périphériques et assurer sa vulgarisation ;
10. de finaliser le rapport de l'étude sur les mobiles des allégations relatives au respect des droits humains et sur la participation des Populations Autochtones et Communautés Locales (PACL) dans la création et la gestion des aires protégées en Afrique centrale et assurer sa vulgarisation ;
11. de finaliser la boîte à outils sous-régionale sur le respect des droits humains dans la création et la gestion des aires protégées en Afrique centrale et assurer sa vulgarisation.

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#### **Sur la participation au 1<sup>er</sup> Congrès Africain sur les Aires Protégées (APAC),**

Les participants invitent les pays à prendre activement part aux activités du Congrès Africain sur les Aires Protégées (APAC).

#### **S'agissant de la restitution des études sur la formation forestière,**

Les participants ont pris acte de :

- du référentiel métier et compétences standardisé pour l'Afrique centrale ;
- du curriculum et des dispositifs de formation standardisés pour former les écogardes en Afrique centrale.

Au terme des travaux, les participants ont exprimé leur gratitude au Gouvernement de la République Gabonaise et aux partenaires techniques et financiers pour toutes les commodités ayant contribué à la réussite des travaux.

Fait à Libreville, le 15 juillet 2022

#### **Les Participants**

*For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfb-cbfp.org/actualites-rdp/SGTAPFS-13-CF.html>*



## **Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale**

*Une dimension régionale pour la conservation  
et la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers*

### **SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE DU CONSEIL DES MINISTRES**

Libreville, République Gabonaise, 9 juillet 2022

#### **COMMUNIQUE FINAL**

Sur invitation de **Monsieur Jules Doret NDONGO**, Ministre des Forêts et de la Faune du Cameroun et Président en exercice de la Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC), une session extraordinaire du Conseil des Ministres en charge des Forêts et/ou l'Environnement des pays membres de la COMIFAC s'est tenue le 9 juillet 2022 à Libreville en République Gabonaise. Cette session du Conseil des Ministres se tenait en marge de la 19<sup>ème</sup> Réunion des Parties du Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo (PFBC). Elle a été précédée les 6 et 7 juillet 2022 par la réunion du segment des Experts.

Les pays membres ci-après ont pris part aux travaux : Burundi, Cameroun, Congo, Gabon, Guinée Equatoriale, République Centrafricaine, République Démocratique du Congo, Rwanda, Tchad et Sao Tomé et Príncipe. Y ont également pris part la CEEAC et la Facilitation de la République Fédérale Allemande du PFBC.

La cérémonie solennelle d'ouverture a été marquée par quatre allocutions : celle de M. Christian RUCK, Facilitateur de la République Allemande du PFBC, de son Excellence Honoré TABUNA, Commissaire en charge de l'Environnement, Ressources Naturelles, Agriculture et Développement Rural de la CEEAC, de M. Jules Doret NDONGO, Ministre des Forêts et de la Faune du Cameroun et Président en exercice de la COMIFAC, et le Discours d'ouverture de M. Lee WHITE, Ministre des Eaux, de la Forêt, de la Mer et de l'Environnement, chargé du Plan Climat et du Plan d'Affectation des Terres de la République Gabonaise.

Tout d'abord, le Facilitateur de la République Allemande du PFBC a rappelé les grandes conclusions de la 19<sup>ème</sup> réunion des parties du PFBC qui célèbre aussi le 20<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire du Partenariat. Il a salué la précieuse contribution des Ministres et autorités en charge des forêts et de l'environnement aux travaux dont l'un des résultats saillants est la mise en place d'un groupe de travail qui sera chargé de la mobilisation des financements internationaux en faveur de la protection et la gestion durable des forêts d'Afrique centrale. Il a émis le vœu que ce groupe de travail regorge d'experts de haut niveau au niveau international et soit représentatif de toutes les parties prenantes incluant les opérateurs économiques, les institutions financières et celles de recherche. Il a déploré que sur la multitude des fonds existant au niveau international, très peu bénéficie aux pays d'Afrique centrale. Il a réitéré l'engagement de la facilitation du PFBC à œuvrer davantage à travers le Fair Deal pour la mobilisation des financements au profit de la sous-région. Il a exhorté les Ministres et autorités politiques des pays membres de la COMIFAC à s'impliquer dans la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration d'engagement des pays d'Afrique centrale.

Prenant la parole, le Commissaire en charge de l'Environnement, Ressources Naturelles, Agriculture et Développement Rural de la CEEAC s'est félicité de la tenue de cette session extraordinaire du Conseil des Ministres de l'institution spécialisée de la CEEAC qui permettra d'examiner les questions prioritaires relatives à la vie de la COMIFAC. Il s'est appesanti sur l'importance que revêt le secteur forêt-environnement en raison de sa contribution au

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renforcement de l'intégration sous-régionale en matière de conservation et de gestion durable et concertée des écosystèmes forestiers. Poursuivant son propos, il a souligné que la CEEAC envisage conformément à la Décision 08 de doter la COMIFAC de moyens techniques et adéquates afin qu'elle puisse jouer pleinement son rôle. Il a souhaité l'implication du groupe d'experts finances et banques mis en place par la CEEAC.

Le Président en exercice de la COMIFAC, prenant la parole a invité l'assistance à observer une minute de silence en la mémoire de Monsieur Raymond NDOMBA NGOYE, ancien Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMIFAC décédé le 18 juin 2022. Il s'est réjoui de la tenue de cette session en présentiel un an après la prise de fonction de la nouvelle équipe dirigeante. Poursuivant son propos, il a rappelé les points à l'ordre du jour conformément aux dispositions de l'article 11 du Traité instituant la COMIFAC. Aussi, a-t-il relevé que cette session marquera une étape importante de la vie de la COMIFAC dont la survie est tributaire de la mise en œuvre effective des résolutions qui seront issues de cette session. Avant de clore son propos, il a renouvelé la gratitude du Cameroun à ses pairs pour avoir répondu favorablement à son invitation ainsi qu'à la facilitation allemande du PFBC d'avoir permis la tenue de cette session en marge de la RdP 19. Dans cette même veine, il a adressé ses déférents remerciements à la République Gabonaise et à son Illustre **Chef de l'Etat, son Excellence Ali BONGO ONDIMBA**, d'avoir accepté d'abriter ces assises à Libreville.

Après avoir souhaité la bienvenue à ses pairs, le Ministre des Eaux, de la Forêt, de la Mer et de l'Environnement, chargé du Plan Climat et du Plan d'Affectation des Terres de la République Gabonaise a remercié la COMIFAC d'avoir porté son choix sur le Gabon pour la tenue de cette session extraordinaire. Il s'est réjoui du démarrage effectif du partenariat à l'issue de la RdP 19 du PFBC qui pour lui, marque un nouveau départ dans la coopération entre la sous-région et les partenaires. Il a émis le vœu que l'engagement des partenaires à travers le Fair Deal permettra à la sous-région d'enranger des financements en faveur de la protection et de la gestion durable des forêts d'Afrique centrale. C'est sur cette note d'espoir qu'il a souhaité pleins succès aux travaux et a déclaré ouverte la session extraordinaire du Conseil des Ministres.

Après la cérémonie protocolaire, le rapport de la réunion du segment des Experts a été présenté par Monsieur Jacques MOULOUNGOU, Coordonnateur National COMIFAC du Gabon.

En séance à huis clos, le Président du Conseil a procédé à la vérification du quorum qui a été jugé atteint. Le bureau, mis en place pour la conduite des travaux, a été constitué comme suit :

- **Président : Monsieur Jules Doret NDONGO**, Ministre des Forêts et de la Faune de la République du Cameroun
- **Vice-Président : Monsieur Emmanuel NDORIMANA**, Secrétaire Permanent du Ministère de l'Environnement de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage de la République du Burundi
- **1<sup>er</sup> Rapporteur : Pr Lee WHITE**, Ministre des Eaux, de la Forêt, de la Mer et de l'Environnement, chargé du Plan Climat et du Plan d'Affectation des Terres de la République Gabonaise
- **2<sup>ème</sup> Rapporteur : Monsieur Amit IDRIS**, Ministre des Eaux, Forêts, Chasse et Pêche de la République Centrafricaine

Par la suite, les Ministres ont pris acte du rapport du segment des Experts et examiné les points inscrits à l'ordre du jour. Au terme des échanges, ils ont pris les décisions et recommandations suivantes :

#### 1. **S'agissant de la mobilisation des financements de Glasgow en soutien à la COMIFAC et aux pays d'Afrique centrale,**

Les ministres ont :

- i. adopté l'option 3 portant sur le choix d'une Banque panafricaine de développement ou une banque de portée sous-régionale comme structure de gestion de fonds annoncés. A cet effet, Ils ont retenu la Banque Africaine de Développement conformément à la Déclaration de Tunis de 2008 ;

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- ii. adressé leur gratitude à la BAD pour son engagement à abriter la deuxième phase du PACEBCo ;
- iii. invité les pays qui n'ont pas encore signé la lettre d'engagement sollicitée par la BAD pour la phase 2 du PACEBCo de le faire ;
- iv. invité les pays à présenter la COMIFAC auprès des bailleurs de fonds et des partenaires comme la porte d'entrée et la structure responsable de référence en matière d'exécution des programmes et projets sous-régionaux dans le secteur forêts et environnement en Afrique centrale, conformément à la décision N° 08/CEEAC/CCEG/XI/21 du 30 juillet 2021 portant mise en place et fonctionnement des institutions spécialisées de la CEEAC ;
- v. instruit le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC de conclure un Mémoire d'Entente avec le Cabinet Southbridge pour l'accompagnement de la COMIFAC dans la mobilisation des financements internationaux en raison de son expertise en la matière ;
- vi. invité les pays qui ne l'ont pas encore fait, à désigner les Experts nationaux pour la mobilisation des financements annoncés à Glasgow.

### 2. Sur la situation financière et le point sur les contributions égalitaires et des dettes de la COMIFAC,

Les Ministres ont ;

- i. exprimé leurs vives préoccupations sur la situation financière alarmante de l'institution et souligné la nécessité d'agir au plus vite ;
- ii. félicité le Cameroun qui est à jour de ses contributions jusqu'à 2022 et la RDC qui a payé plus de la moitié de ses arriérées de contributions, soit 500 000 USD ;
- iii. invité les pays membres à s'acquitter des contributions égalitaires 2022 ainsi que des arriérés afin de garantir le bon fonctionnement de l'institution ;
- iv. instruit le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC de veiller à l'application des dispositions de l'article 20 paragraphe 4 du Traité sur la perte du droit de vote ainsi que tout appui des partenaires de la COMIFAC, conformément à leur résolution prise lors de la Session extraordinaire de mai 2016 à Kinshasa
- v. soutenu la nécessité pour la CEEAC d'appuyer davantage la COMIFAC pour lui permettre de développer des programmes et projets avec des impacts qui résolvent les problèmes réels des populations ;
- vi. invité les pays membres à impliquer les Experts des Ministères en charge des Finances et ceux des Ministères en charge des Relations Extérieures dans la mobilisation des ressources financières (internes, externes et novatrices) ;
- vii. instruit le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC de veiller à la tenue des sessions du Conseil des Ministres avant la planification budgétaire dans les pays membres pour la prise en compte de leurs contributions égalitaires dans les budgets nationaux ;
- viii. mandaté le Président en exercice à adresser en concertation avec le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC une correspondance à ses pairs devant servir de plaidoyer auprès de leur hiérarchie en vue de la mobilisation des contributions égalitaires.

### 3. Concernant le Rapport annuel 2021 de la COMIFAC,

Les Ministres ont :

- i. adopté le rapport annuel 2021 ;
- ii. félicité l'équipe du Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC pour les activités réalisées dont le taux de réalisation estimé à 58% illustre les bonnes performances de l'institution en dépit de la situation financière difficile qu'elle rencontre ;
- iii. renouvelé la gratitude de la COMIFAC aux partenaires au développement pour leurs appuis constants pour la mise en œuvre du Plan de convergence ;
- iv. invité les partenaires au développement à renforcer leurs appuis pour soutenir davantage les efforts des pays membres de la COMIFAC, dans le secteur forêts et environnement, conformément à la résolution 54/214 du 1<sup>er</sup> février 2000 de l'Assemblée Générale des

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Nations Unies.

### 4. S'agissant du Plan de Travail Annuel Budgétisé 2022 de la COMIFAC,

Les Ministres ont :

- i. adopté le Plan de Travail Annuel Budgétisé 2022 ;
- ii. exhorté les partenaires au développement à appuyer le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC dans la mise en œuvre de ce plan.

### 5. S'agissant du projet de Budget annuel 2022 de la COMIFAC,

Les Ministres l'ont approuvé.

### 6. Concernant le Rapport d'audit des états financiers et comptables 2018 et 2019 de la COMIFAC,

Les Ministres ont :

- i. approuvé les rapports d'audit financier et comptable et les rapports de contrôle interne du Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC pour les exercices 2018 et 2019 ;
- ii. instruit le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC de prendre des mesures et actions urgentes pour la mise en application des recommandations issues de l'audit.

### 7. Relativement au 3<sup>ème</sup> Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de la COMIFAC,

Les Ministres ont :

- i. proposé les dates des 4 et 5 décembre 2022 pour la tenue dudit Sommet à Kinshasa en RDC dans l'attente d'une correspondance officielle de la RDC confirmant cette proposition ;
- ii. validé le projet d'ordre du jour actualisé ;
- iii. instruit le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC d'appuyer la Présidence en exercice et le pays hôte dans l'organisation dudit Sommet.

Au terme des travaux, le Conseil des Ministres a exprimé sa profonde gratitude à **son Excellence Ali BONGO ONDIMBA**, Président de la République Gabonaise et à son Gouvernement pour l'organisation réussie de la Session Extraordinaire du Conseil des Ministres de la COMIFAC.

Fait à Libreville, le 9 juillet 2022







## **Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale**

*Une dimension régionale pour la conservation  
et la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers*

### **SESSION EXTRAORDINAIRE DU CONSEIL DES MINISTRES**

#### **REUNION DU SEGMENT DES EXPERTS**

Libreville, République Gabonaise, les 6 et 7 juillet 2022

1. Sur invitation de Monsieur Jules Doret NDONGO, Ministre des Forêts et de la Faune du Cameroun et Président en exercice de la Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC), s'est tenue les 6 et 7 juillet 2022 à Libreville en République Gabonaise, la réunion du segment des Experts, préparatoire à la Session Extraordinaire du Conseil des Ministres chargés de l'Environnement et des Forêts des pays membres de la COMIFAC. Cette réunion des Experts se tenait en marge de la 19<sup>ème</sup> Réunion des Parties du Partenariat pour les Forêts du bassin du Congo (PFBC).
2. La réunion avait pour objectif principal d'une part, d'apprécier la performance de la COMIFAC en examinant quelques questions prioritaires pour la vie de l'institution et d'autre part, de réfléchir sur la mobilisation des financements annoncés à Glasgow (1,5 et 1,7 milliards de \$US) par les donateurs en appui à la protection et la gestion durable des forêts d'Afrique centrale et aux peuples autochtones et communautés locales.
3. Cette réunion a regroupé une vingtaine d'Experts représentant les délégations des pays suivants : Burundi, Cameroun, Congo, Gabon, Guinée Equatoriale, République Centrafricaine, République Démocratique du Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tomé et Príncipe et Tchad et comprenant les Coordonnateurs Nationaux COMIFAC et les Experts nationaux désignés pour les questions de mobilisation des financements de Glasgow.
4. Y ont également pris part, les représentants des organisations internationales et des structures suivantes : COMIFAC, Facilitation RFA/PFBC, Banque Africaine de Développement, Cabinet Southbridge et Cabinet Bekolo et Partners.

#### **I. Cérémonie d'ouverture**

5. La cérémonie d'ouverture a été ponctuée par deux allocutions : celle de M. Hervé Martial MAIDOU, Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMIFAC et le discours d'ouverture de M. Michel NGUEBA KOUMBA, Secrétaire Général, représentant le Ministre des Eaux, de la Forêt, de la Mer et de l'Environnement, chargé du Plan Climat et du Plan d'Affectation des Terres de la République Gabonaise.
6. Dans son allocution, le Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMIFAC a d'abord invité les participants à observer une minute de silence en la mémoire de M. Raymond NDOMBA NGOYE, ancien Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMIFAC décédé le 18 juin 2022. Poursuivant son propos, il a souligné que cette session extraordinaire du Conseil des Ministres est pleine de symboles, en ce sens qu'il se déroule deux ans après la crise de la COVID19 et un an après la prise de service de la nouvelle équipe dirigeante d'une part, et d'autre

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part, la disparition depuis le début de l'année 2022 de trois personnalités ayant contribué au rayonnement de la COMIFAC, à savoir M. Roger FOTEU, le Dr François HIOL HIOL et très récemment M. Raymond NDOMBA NGOYE.

7. Après avoir rappelé les points inscrits à l'ordre du jour, il a exprimé la gratitude de la COMIFAC aux autorités gabonaises pour avoir accepté d'accueillir les présentes assises ainsi qu'aux partenaires techniques et financiers à savoir, la Coopération allemande à travers le Projet GIZ d'appui à la COMIFAC et le PFBC pour leurs appuis à l'organisation de cette session. Il a enfin exhorté les participants à ne ménager aucun effort pour la réussite de cette rencontre.

8. Dans son discours d'ouverture M. Michel NGUEBA KOUMBA, au nom du Pr Lee WHITE, Ministre des Eaux, de la Forêt, de la Mer et de l'Environnement, chargé du Plan Climat et du Plan d'Affectation des Terres de la République Gabonaise, a souhaité aux participants, une cordiale bienvenue en terre gabonaise et un bon séjour à Libreville. Il a rappelé le contexte dans lequel se tient cette rencontre notamment la reprise post COVID et le premier anniversaire de la prise de fonction de la nouvelle équipe.

9. Il a rappelé les différents points inscrits à l'ordre du jour et a émis le voeu que les échanges soient constructifs et fructueux, avant de déclarer ouverts les travaux du segment des Experts.

10. Le discours d'ouverture a été suivi par la mise en place du bureau composé comme suit :

- (a) **Président** : Monsieur Elias Georges MESSINA du Cameroun
- (b) **Vice-président** : Monsieur Guillaume SIBOMANA du Burundi
- (c) **Premier Rapporteur** : Monsieur Jacques MOULOUNGOU du Gabon
- (d) **Deuxième Rapporteur** : Monsieur Luc DIMANCHE de la République Centrafricaine
- (e) Le Secrétariat a été assuré par le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC.

## II. Déroulement des travaux

### A. Questions d'organisation

11. Après la cérémonie d'ouverture, l'agenda a été examiné et adopté à l'unanimité. Il était articulé en deux points à savoir les questions d'organisation et les questions diverses et finales.

### B. Questions nécessitant un examen

12. Les travaux de cette session se sont déroulés en plénière et ont porté sur une série de communications présentées tour à tour par le Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint et le Directeur Administratif et Financier de la COMIFAC, les représentants de la Banque Africaine de Développement, du Cabinet Southbridge et du Cabinet d'audit Bekolo and Partners.

#### **a) Etat d'avancement de la mobilisation du financement de 1,5 milliards de \$US annoncé à Glasgow, par le Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint de la COMIFAC**

13. De cet exposé, il ressort que les actions suivantes ont été menées par la COMIFAC :

- Echanges bilatéraux avec les pays donateurs et réunions avec les partenaires techniques et financiers ;
- Organisation d'une réunion sous-régionale pour échanger sur les résultats de Glasgow ;
- Mise en place d'un groupe de travail pour la mobilisation des financements de Glasgow ;
- Analyse des options de gouvernance et de financement de fonds des Déclarations de Glasgow ;
- Tenue des réunions avec les partenaires techniques et financiers à l'effet d'identifier les actions à mener pour accélérer la mobilisation des financements de Glasgow ;

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- Tenue d'une Conférence de presse sur les déclarations de Glasgow, par le Président en exercice de la COMIFAC ;
- Tenue de la réunion virtuelle des Ministres en charge des Forêts ou du climat des pays membres de la COMIFAC avec Madame Monica P. MEDINA, Secrétaire d'Etat Adjointe au Bureau des Océans et des Affaires Environnementales et Scientifiques Internationales des Etats-Unis d'Amérique à l'occasion de sa visite à Kinshasa.

14. Les Experts ont été également informés de l'annonce de 1,7 milliards de \$US en appui aux peuples autochtones et communautés locales dépendant des forêts.

### **b) Analyse des options de gouvernance et de financement des fonds des Déclarations de Glasgow pour l'Afrique centrale, par le Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint de la COMIFAC**

15. Le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC a commandé une étude sur l'analyse des options de gouvernance et de financement des fonds des Déclarations de Glasgow pour l'Afrique centrale avec l'appui du CIFOR. Cette étude présente les quatre modèles de structures de gestion des financements climatiques existant en Afrique centrale (Fonds Bleu pour le Bassin du Congo, CAFI, FFBC, FTNS). Chacun de ces modèles comporte des forces et des faiblesses. De même, l'étude propose cinq options des structures de gouvernance à savoir :

- Mettre en place une méga structure centrale annexée à la COMIFAC qui servirait de premier réceptacle des financements attendus ;
- Laisser à chaque bailleur de mettre à la disposition des Etats des financements en fonction des modèles existants ;
- Recourir à une banque africaine de développement ou d'une banque de portée sous-régionale comme structure de gestion des fonds (premier réceptacle) ;
- S'appuyer sur les organismes du système des Nations Unies ou ceux accrédités au Fonds Vert pour le Climat ;
- Mettre en place un fonds fiduciaire.

16. Chacune des options ci-dessus comporte des forces, faiblesses, menaces et opportunités.

### **c) Financement de la phase 2 du Programme d'Appui à la Conservation des Ecosystèmes dans le Bassin du Congo (PACEBCo), par le représentant de la BAD**

17. Le PACEBCo est une réponse de la Banque Africaine de Développement (BAD) aux préoccupations exprimées par les Chefs d'États d'Afrique centrale lors du Sommet de Brazzaville en 2005, concernant la mise en oeuvre du Plan de Convergence de la COMIFAC.

18. Il découle de la Déclaration de Tunis 2008 par laquelle les pays d'Afrique Centrale ont désigné la BAD comme institution financière devant porter les financements en matière de conservation des écosystèmes d'Afrique Centrale.

19. La première phase de PACEBCo a permis d'obtenir d'importants résultats et produits dans le cadre de la préservation des écosystèmes, l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations et l'appui aux institutions nationales et sous-régionales en charge des écosystèmes dans le Bassin du Congo.

20. Le nouveau programme proposé s'intitule « Programme d'Appui à la Conservation des Écosystèmes et à la Résilience aux Changements Climatiques en Afrique Centrale ».

21. Pour le développement de ce programme, la BAD a besoin de la lettre d'engagement des Etats membres de la COMIFAC.

### **d) Présentation du Cabinet Southbridge sur la stratégie de mobilisation des ressources financières**

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22. Les Experts ont été éduqués sur les missions du Cabinet Southbridge, structure spécialisée dans l'accompagnement pour la levée des fonds au niveau international. Une offre d'accompagnement de la COMIFAC pour la mobilisation des financements internationaux a été présentée.

### **e) Situation financière et point sur les contributions égalitaires et des dettes de la COMIFAC, par le Directeur Administratif et Financier de la COMIFAC**

23. L'orateur a présenté un tableau peu reluisant de la situation financière et des contributions égalitaires de l'institution en 2021. Il y ressort un montant des contributions dues à la COMIFAC de 2002 à 2021 estimé à 3,2 milliards de FCFA, soit environ 5,4 millions de USD. Ces arriérées de contributions n'ont pas permis à la COMIFAC d'assurer son fonctionnement harmonieux, ce qui engendre de nombreuses dettes envers les tiers et les arriérés de salaires du personnel.

24. Le Cameroun est le seul pays à s'être acquitté de la totalité de sa contribution égalitaire jusqu'en 2021. Il sied également de signaler que la RCA a versé une partie de sa contribution de 2021, soit 30 millions de FCFA.

25. A la suite de cet exposé, les Experts ont exprimé leurs vives préoccupations sur la situation financière alarmante de l'institution et ont souligné la nécessité d'agir au plus vite.

26. Les Experts ont été éduqués par l'expérience du Cameroun dans le processus de mobilisation des contributions égalitaires, où sont impliqués les Experts des Ministères en charge des Finances et ceux en charge des Relations Extérieures.

27. Les Experts ont félicité le Cameroun qui est à jour de ses contributions, ainsi que la RDC qui a payé plus de la moitié de ses arriérées de contributions, soit 500 000 USD.

### **f) Rapport annuel 2021 de la COMIFAC, par le Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint de la COMIFAC**

28. Le bilan des réalisations de la COMIFAC effectuées en 2021 a été présenté. Parmi ces réalisations, figurent : (i) l'adoption de la Déclaration d'engagement des pays de la COMIFAC ; (ii) la transposition des Directives sous-régionales en matière d'évaluation environnementale et sociale en milieu forestier ; (iii) l'accompagnement des pays dans l'élaboration et la validation des textes réglementaires sur l'Accès et le partage juste et équitable des Avantages découlant de l'utilisation des ressources génétiques (APA) ; (iv) l'appui à la participation de la COMIFAC, ses pays membres et les acteurs de la société civile aux conférences internationales en vue du plaidoyer et la défense des positions communes ; (v) la gouvernance des données forestières et environnementales à travers l'Observatoire des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (OFAC) ; (vi) la finalisation et la publication des rapports sur l'Etat des Aires Protégées 2020 et l'Etat des forêts d'Afrique Centrale 2021 ; (vii) la validation du Plan d'affaires et du manuel d'exécution de la COMIFAC ; et (viii) l'évaluation à mi-parcours du Plan de convergence de la COMIFAC.

29. Les Experts ont félicité le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC pour les activités réalisées dont le taux de réalisation estimé à 58% illustre les bonnes performances de l'institution et ce, en dépit de la situation financière difficile, qui effrite davantage la crédibilité de la COMIFAC et ne lui permet pas de soutenir financièrement la mise en oeuvre du Plan de convergence.

### **g) Plan du Travail Annuel Budgétisé 2022 de la COMIFAC, par le Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint de la COMIFAC**

30. Le Secrétariat Exécutif est doté d'un Plan de travail Annuel Budgétisé 2022. Ce Plan a ceci de particulier qu'il repose sur les cinq priorités stratégiques de la nouvelle équipe statutaire du Secrétariat Exécutif désignée en 2021 pour un mandat de quatre ans. Il s'agit de : (i) renforcer la diplomatie environnementale ; (ii) restaurer les dynamiques dans les processus forestiers de la sous-région ; (iii) restaurer la confiance des pays et des partenaires techniques et financiers ; (iv) renforcer la visibilité de la COMIFAC

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aux niveaux national, sous régional et international ; et (v) actionner le dossier de l'organisation du 3ème Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de la COMIFAC.

31. Le cadre de résultats du PTAB 2022 comporte trois (3) composantes à savoir, la mise en oeuvre du Plan de convergence, la coopération et les partenariats ainsi que la coordination, le suivi et fonctionnement des organes.

32. Les ressources budgétisées pour l'atteinte des résultats du PTAB 2022 sont estimées à douze millions neuf cent quatre-vingt-quinze mille trois cent soixante-neuf (12 995 369) USD.

### **h) Rapport d'audit des états financiers et comptables 2018 et 2019 de la COMIFAC, par le Directeur Général du Cabinet Bekolo & Partners**

33. Conformément aux dispositions de l'article 24 du Traité de la COMIFAC, le Cabinet Bekolo & Partners a été recruté pour réaliser les audits des comptes du Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC pour les exercices 2018 et 2019. Les conclusions de cet audit réalisé selon les normes professionnelles généralement admises dans le cadre du droit comptable OHADA ont été présentées. Celles-ci couvrent tous les aspects financiers et comptables relatifs au fonctionnement de la COMIFAC.

34. L'auditeur a émis des réserves entre autres sur les comptes de résultats, le plan de passations des marchés, la non-réalisation de 100% des recommandations de l'Audit de 2018 et de 90% des recommandations de l'Audit 2019, le non-versement des impôts et cotisations sociales, etc.

### **i) Le projet du Budget 2022 de la COMIFAC, par le Directeur Administratif et Financier de la COMIFAC**

35. Le projet de budget 2022 de la COMIFAC est chiffré et équilibré en recettes et en dépenses à un montant de 2,3 milliards de FCFA, reparti ainsi qu'il suit :

- i. Budget de fonctionnement du Secrétariat Exécutif, y compris les dettes salariales, fiscales et sociales : 863 millions de FCFA ;
- ii. Budget d'investissement, appui attendu des partenaires techniques et financier pour la mise en oeuvre des activités du PTA 2022 : 1,5 milliards de FCFA.

### **j) 3ème Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de la COMIFAC, par le Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint de la COMIFAC**

36. L'orateur a rappelé le mandat du Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement, ainsi que la tenue d'aucune autre rencontre de cette haute instance après le deuxième Sommet tenu à Brazzaville au Congo le 5 février 2005. Il a souligné que l'organisation de ce 3ème Sommet est une opportunité pour faire le point de la vie de l'institution, rendre compte de la mise en oeuvre du Plan de Convergence, faire adopter le deuxième Plan et présenter les défis actuels de la conservation de la biodiversité, ainsi que la lutte contre les changements climatiques.

37. Il a rappelé que la République Démocratique du Congo s'est engagée à abriter le 3ème Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de la COMIFAC. Cet engagement a été réitéré par **Son Excellence Félix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO**, Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat de la République Démocratique du Congo lors de sa visite dans le pavillon de la COMIFAC en marge de la COP 26 tenue à Glasgow, pour l'organisation de ce troisième Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de la COMIFAC à Kinshasa en 2022.

## **III. Suggestions aux Ministres :**

38. Au terme des échanges, les Experts formulent les suggestions ci-après :

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### **S'agissant de la mobilisation des financements de Glasgow en soutien à la COMIFAC et aux pays d'Afrique centrale, les Experts suggèrent :**

- i. d'adopter l'option 3 portant sur le choix d'une Banque panafricaine de développement ou une banque de portée sous-régionale comme structure de gestion de fonds annoncés. A cet effet, les Experts suggèrent le choix de la BAD conformément à la Déclaration de Tunis de 2008. Elle jouit en crédibilité au niveau mondial ;
- ii. de présenter la COMIFAC auprès des bailleurs de fonds et des partenaires comme la porte d'entrée et la structure responsable de référence en matière d'exécution des programmes et projets sous-régionaux dans le secteur forêts et environnement en Afrique centrale, conformément à la décision N° 08/CEEAC/CCEG/XI/21 du 30 juillet 2021 portant mise en place et fonctionnement des institutions spécialisées de la CEEAC ;
- iii. d'instruire le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC de conclure un Mémoire d'Entente avec le Cabinet Southbridge pour l'accompagnement de la COMIFAC dans la mobilisation des financements internationaux en raison de son expertise en la matière ;
- iv. d'inviter les pays qui ne l'ont pas encore fait, à désigner les Experts nationaux pour la mobilisation des financements annoncés à Glasgow.

### **S'agissant de la situation financière et du point sur les contributions égalitaires et des dettes de la COMIFAC, les Experts suggèrent :**

- i. d'inviter les pays membres à s'acquitter des contributions égalitaires 2022 ainsi que des arriérés afin de garantir le bon fonctionnement de l'institution ;
- ii. d'instruire le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC de veiller à l'application des dispositions de l'article 20 paragraphe 4 du Traité sur la perte du droit de vote ainsi que tout appui des partenaires de la COMIFAC, conformément à leur résolution prise lors de la Session extraordinaire de mai 2016 à Kinshasa ;
- iii. d'actionner le mécanisme de financement indexé sur un taux appliqué à la somme des recettes réalisées sur les produits forestiers et fauniques exportés conformément aux dispositions de l'article 20 paragraphe 1 du Traité ;
- iv. d'inviter les pays membres à impliquer les Experts des Ministères en charge des Finances et ceux des Ministères en charge des Relations Extérieures dans la mobilisation des ressources financières (internes, externes et novatrices) ;
- v. d'instruire le Secrétariat Exécutif de veiller à la tenue des sessions du Conseil des Ministres avant la planification budgétaire dans les pays membres pour la prise en compte de leurs contributions égalitaires dans les budgets nationaux.

### **k) Concernant le Rapport annuel 2021 de la COMIFAC, les Experts suggèrent :**

- i. d'adopter le rapport annuel 2021 ;
- ii. de renouveler la gratitude de la COMIFAC aux partenaires au développement pour leurs appuis constants pour la mise en oeuvre du Plan de convergence ;
- iii. d'inviter les partenaires techniques et financiers à renforcer leurs appuis pour soutenir davantage les efforts des pays membres de la COMIFAC dans le secteur forêts et environnement conformément à la résolution 54/214 du 1er février 2000 de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies.

### **l) S'agissant du Plan de Travail Annuel Budgétisé 2022 de la COMIFAC, les Experts suggèrent :**

- i. d'adopter le Plan de Travail Annuel Budgétisé 2022 ;
- ii. d'exhorter les partenaires au développement à appuyer le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC dans la mise en oeuvre de ce plan.

### **m) Concernant le projet de Budget annuel 2022 de la COMIFAC, les Experts suggèrent de l'approuver.**

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### **n) S'agissant du Rapport d'audit des états financiers et comptables 2018 et 2019 de la COMIFAC, les Experts suggèrent :**

- i. d'approuver les rapports d'audit financier et comptable et les rapports de contrôle interne du Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC pour les exercices 2018 et 2019 ;
- ii. d'instruire le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC de prendre des mesures et actions urgentes pour la mise en application des recommandations issues de l'audit.

### **o) S'agissant du 3ème Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de la COMIFAC, les Experts suggèrent :**

- i. de proposer la date du 7 octobre 2022 correspondant à la période post Pré-COP 27 Climat prévue en RDC du 3 au 5 octobre 2022, pour la tenue du 3ème Sommet ou la date du 20 décembre 2022 ;
- ii. de valider le projet d'ordre du jour actualisé ;
- iii. de valider la note de concept ;
- iv. d'instruire le Secrétariat Exécutif de la COMIFAC d'appuyer la Présidence en exercice et le pays hôte dans l'organisation dudit Sommet.

## **B. Questions diverses et finales**

39. Au terme des travaux, les Experts ont exprimé leur gratitude au Gouvernement de la République Gabonaise et aux partenaires techniques et financiers pour toutes les commodités ayant contribué à la réussite des travaux.

40. Les travaux se sont achevés par le mot de remerciement et de clôture du Président de la réunion du Segment des Experts.

Fait à Libreville, le 7 juillet 2022

**Les Experts**

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/news-partner/finalcommuniqu%C3%A9-MOP19.html>***

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Final Communiqué of the Ministerial Session - Tri-national Supervision and Arbitration Committee (CTSA) on the Fight against Poaching (AT-LAB)

# **Final Communiqué of the Ministerial Session - Tri-national Supervision and Arbitration Committee (CTSA) on the Fight against Poaching (AT-LAB)**

The N'Djamena Tri-national Supervision and Arbitration Committee (CTSA) on the Cooperation Agreement between Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad on the fight against poaching (AT-LAB) held its third meeting. The meeting was convened by Mr. MAHAMAT AHMAT LAZINA, Chadian Minister of the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and Chairman of the CTSA. Please download the documents below:

In the year two thousand and twenty-two, on the seventh day of July, the city of Libreville, Republic of Gabon, hosted the third session of the N'Djamena Tri-national Supervision and Arbitration Committee (CTSA), relating to the Cooperation Agreement between Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad on the fight against poaching (AT-LAB). The session was held on the sidelines of the 19th Meeting of Parties to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), and was convened by Mr. MAHAMAT AHMAT LAZINA, Minister of the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development of Chad and Chairman of the CTSA.

Participants included representatives of the Ministers of Wildlife and Protected Areas and experts from Cameroon, CAR and Chad, as well as representatives of Technical and Financial Partners involved in managing the BSB Yamoussa Complex (GIZ, WCS) and the protected area complex of northern CAR.

### ***Opening ceremony***

- The opening ceremony featured a single speech.
- In his opening speech, Mr. IBRAHIM ABDARAMAN AHMAT, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development representing the Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development welcomed the delegations from Cameroon, CAR and Chad.
- He went on to recall the meeting objectives and called on all the participants to carefully review the items on the agenda. He urged the States Parties to join efforts to form a common front to wipe out the scourge of poaching which is threatening the survival of our wildlife and humans including conservation staff and our poorly equipped park rangers. Finally, he conveyed his gratitude to the Gabonese President, his Government and his people for their warm welcome and hospitality.

### ***Conduct of the proceedings***

The meeting unfolded in two parts: presentations followed by discussions.

The presentations covered:

- A reading of the summary report of the Experts' meeting;
- the 2022-2023 roadmap;



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Final Communiqué of the Ministerial Session - Tri-national Supervision and Arbitration Committee (CTSA) on the Fight against Poaching (AT-LAB)

The ensuing discussions revolved around:

- the establishment and operationalization of the tri-national brigade which will be tasked with coordinating AML activities in the tripartite space and running intelligence operations;
- the establishment of the Agreement Secretariat the CTSA had tasked OCFSA with setting up in Kinshasa in December 2020;
- funding for the operationalization of the AML Tripartite Agreement.

### ***Resolutions***

At the close of the meeting, the CTSA took note of the recommendations and made the following resolutions:

- allow OCFSA more time to set up the Agreement Secretariat before the next session;
- instructed the CTPE to prepare all the necessary documentation to be presented to the German cooperation to request sustainable financing of the tripartite agreement;
- Recommended contacting KFW and COMIFAC to request that the incumbent chairman of the CTSA be requested to lobby for the establishment of a trust fund during the next intergovernmental negotiation;
- requested that the other partners, including the European Union, be more involved in financing the operations of AT-LAB bodies;
- instructed the CTPE to present a quantified assessment of the roadmap at the next CTSA session;
- took note of the change of course of the GIZ project, and urged the other partners in the LAB of the tripartite space to provide substantial support for the implementation of the AT-LAB;
- took note of the transfer of the rotating presidency from the Republic of Chad to the Central African Republic as provided in the agreement.
- In conclusion, the Ministers commended the experts for the highly relevant items they had brought to their attention and deemed that the meeting objectives had been achieved. They heartily thanked the German cooperation for its support over the last few years and expressed the wish that it would renew its commitment by supporting the implementation of the AT-LAB in N'Djamena.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbf-cbfp.org/meetings-news/CTSA-RDP19-CMR.html>***

## ECOFAC célèbre ses 30 ans



Lancé depuis 1992 à Brazzaville en République du Congo, le Programme régional ECOFAC est l'expression de trois décennies de coopération étroite et continuellement renforcée entre la Commission de la communauté économique des États de l'Afrique centrale et l'Union européenne, ainsi que des Etats membres respectifs. Ce programme d'appui a pour objectif essentiellement la coordination des activités socio-économiques et sectorielles dans le paysage, la gestion efficace des aires protégées et l'implication des populations riveraines mais surtout le renforcement des structures de gestion des aires protégées et de leur personnel.

La capitalisation des connaissances et les retours des expériences acquises durant les 30 ans du Programme régional ECOFAC constituent une base solide de données et d'informations pour soutenir le Dialogue politique et contribuer à la nouvelle politique environnementale de la CEEAC et à la réussite des futurs programmes initiés par l'Union européenne. Notamment, le projet « Natur'Africa » qui s'inscrit dans le cadre du Pacte Vert et du Rio Post-2020, incluant les objectifs d'Aichi, de l'Agenda 2030 du Développement Durable des Nations Unies et celui de 2063 de l'Union Africaine. Une expérience dont le Gabon a su bénéficier au vu des nombreux parcs nationaux mis en place pour protéger la biodiversité faunique.

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-partenaires/ECOFAC-30.html>***

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GIZ (BSB Yamoussa), COMIFAC - Communiqué Final Session Ministérielle : Comité Binational de Supervision et d'Arbitrage (CBSA)



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## COMITE BINATIONAL DE SUPERVISION ET D'ABRITAGE (CBSA)

Libreville, Gabon, 06 juillet 2022  
Salle de EBENE de l'Hôtel Radisson Blu

### COMMUNIQUE FINAL

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L'an deux mil vingt-deux, et le sixième jour du mois de juillet, s'est tenue, à Libreville en République Gabonaise en marge de la 19<sup>e</sup> réunion des Parties du Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo (PFBC), la deuxième session du Comité Binational de Supervision et d'Arbitrage (CBSA), relatif à l'Accord de Coopération entre le Cameroun et le Tchad pour la gestion concertée du Complexe transfrontalier d'aires protégées Bouba Ndjidda et Séna Oura, sur invitation de **Monsieur Jules Doret NDONGO**, Ministre des Forêts et de la Faune du Cameroun et Président en exercice du CBSA.

Y ont pris part, les représentants des Ministres chargés de la Faune et des Aires Protégées du Cameroun et du Tchad, le Co-Facilitateur du PFBC, les Experts du Cameroun et du Tchad, le Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMIFAC, le Secrétaire Permanent de l'Organisation pour la Conservation de la Faune Sauvage en Afrique (OCFSA), ainsi que les représentants des Partenaires Techniques et Financiers impliqués dans la gestion du Complexe BSB Yamoussa (GIZ, WCS et DFS).

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### *1.0. Cérémonie d'ouverture*

La cérémonie d'ouverture était marquée par deux allocutions :

Monsieur Raymond MBITIKON, Co-facilitateur du PFBC dans son allocution de circonstance a relevé l'importance de cet accord pour une gestion durable et concertée des ressources du complexe et partant des forêts du Bassin du Congo. Il a exhorté les participants à être proactifs et à s'impliquer davantage dans la préservation de notre patrimoine faunique.

Dans son allocution d'ouverture, Monsieur Joseph NYONGWEN, Secrétaire General du MINFOF, représentant le Ministre des Forêts et de la Faune, Président en exercice du CBSA, a tout d'abord souhaité la bienvenue aux délégations venues du Cameroun et du Tchad. Il a poursuivi son propos en présentant les objectifs de la réunion et a invité les uns et les autres à examiner avec diligence les points inscrits à l'ordre du jour. Il a également insisté particulièrement sur la spécificité de cette session du CBSA qui marque les 10 ans de la mise en oeuvre de l'Accord BSB Yamoussa et la fin de la Présidence rotative pour le Cameroun.

## **Annex IV: Annexed Partner Meetings**

*GIZ (BSB Yamoussa), COMIFAC - Communiqué Final Session Ministérielle : Comité Binational de Supervision et d'Arbitrage (CBSA)*

Enfin il a exprimé sa gratitude au Président Gabonais et à son Gouvernement pour l'accueil et son hospitalité légendaire.

### ***2.0. Déroulement des travaux***

La réunion s'est articulée autour de deux parties : les présentations suivies des échanges.

Les présentations portaient sur :

- la lecture de la synthèse du rapport des travaux du segment des Experts ;
- la feuille de route 2023/2024.

Les échanges ont porté sur :

- la mise en place par l'OCFSA du Secrétariat de l'Accord BSB ;
- la problématique de l'orpaillage au nord du Parc National de Bouba Ndjidda qui prend des proportions alarmantes au fil du temps et la nécessité de procéder au déguerpissement des occupants illégaux de ce site ;
- la mise en place du Comité Scientifique et Technique Binational relatif l'accord BSB Yamoussa.

### ***3.0. Résolutions***

A l'issue de la réunion, le CBSA prend acte des recommandations du segment des Experts et formule les résolutions suivantes :

- Instruit l'OCFSA de mettre en place le Secrétariat de l'Accord BSB Yamoussa en collaboration avec la COMIFAC avant la tenue de la prochaine session du CBSA ;
- décide de l'organisation d'une rencontre au Cameroun en vue d'aborder la problématique de l'orpaillage au nord du PNB impliquant toutes les administrations concernées avec l'appui des Partenaires Techniques et Financiers (WCS et GIZ) ;
- instruit le CBPE de préparer le protocole spécifique pour la mise en place et le fonctionnement du Comité Scientifique et Technique Binational (CSTB) ;
- instruit le CBPE de présenter l'évaluation de PTAB à la prochaine session du CBSA ;
- prend acte de la passation de la présidence rotative conformément aux dispositions de l'accord, de la République du Cameroun à la République du Tchad.

Enfin, les Ministres ont apprécié la cordialité et la qualité des échanges et estimé les objectifs de la session atteints. Ils ont exprimé leur gratitude à la Coopération Allemande pour son engagement continu à la préservation du complexe à travers le Projet BSB Yamoussa pour ses appuis multiformes.

Fait à Libreville le 06 juillet 2022

***For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-partenaires/CTSA-RDP19.html>***

#### Annex IV: Annexed Partner Meetings

GIZ (BSB Yamoussa), COMIFAC - Communiqué Final Session des Experts : Synthèse du rapport du segment des experts de la deuxième session du comité binational de supervision et d'arbitrage (CBSA)



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## SYNTHESE DU RAPPORT DU SEGMENT DES EXPERTS DE LA DEUXIEME SESSION DU COMITE BINATIONAL DE SUPERVISION ET D'ABRITAGE (CBSA)

Libreville, Gabon, 05 juillet 2022  
Salle de Réunion de l'Hôtel Radisson Blu

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En prélude à la tenue de la deuxième session du Comité Binational de Supervision et d'Arbitrage (CBSA), et sur invitation de **Monsieur Jules Doret NDONGO**, Ministre des Forêts et de la Faune du Cameroun et Président en exercice du Conseil des Ministres de la Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC), il s'est tenu à Libreville en République Gabonaise, la réunion du segment des Experts du CBSA. Présidée par Monsieur **Joseph NYONGWEN**, Secrétaire Général du Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune du Cameroun, cette réunion avait pour objectif de préparer la tenue du Segment Ministériel du CBSA, prévue le 06 juillet 2022. Y ont pris part, les Experts du Cameroun et du Tchad, le Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMIFAC, le Secrétaire Permanent de l'Organisation pour la Conservation de la Faune Sauvage en Afrique (OCFSA) ainsi que les représentants des Partenaires Techniques et Financiers impliqués dans la gestion du Complexe BSB Yamoussa (GIZ, WCS et DFS).

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### *1.0. Cérémonie d'ouverture*

Dans son mot d'ouverture, le Secrétaire Général du MINFOF a tout d'abord exprimé ses remerciements aux participants venus du Tchad et du Cameroun. Il a poursuivi en présentant les objectifs de la réunion et a invité les uns et les autres à examiner avec diligence les points inscrits à l'ordre du jour. Il a terminé son propos en insistant particulièrement sur la spécificité de cette session du CBSA, qui marque les 10 ans de la mise en oeuvre de l'Accord BSB Yamoussa et la fin de la présidence rotative pour le Cameroun.

## **Annex IV: Annexed Partner Meetings**

GIZ (BSB Yamoussa), COMIFAC - Communiqué Final Session des Experts : Synthèse du rapport du segment des experts de la deuxième session du comité binational de supervision te d'arbitrage (CBSA)

### **2.0. Déroulement des travaux**

La réunion s'est articulée autour de deux grandes parties : les présentations suivies des échanges.

Les présentations portaient sur :

- la lecture du communiqué final de la première session tenue le 18 décembre 2019 à Douala ;
- l'état de mise en oeuvre de l'accord BSB YAMOOUSSA (notamment les feuilles de route 2012-2019 et 2020-2021) ;
- les propositions de partenariats pour la mise en oeuvre de l'accord BSB YAMOOUSSA ;
- la feuille de route des années 2023 et 2024 à soumettre pour validation au CBSA. A la suite des présentations, les échanges qui s'en sont suivis, ont porté sur :
- la problématique de l'orpaillage au nord du Parc National de Bouba Ndjidda qui prend des proportions alarmantes au fil du temps et la nécessité de procéder au déguerpissement des occupants illégaux de ce site. Aussi a-t-il été suggéré de porter une fois de plus cette préoccupation à l'attention de la Très Haute Hiérarchie des deux pays pour susciter une prise de décision, compte tenu de son caractère transfrontalier ;
- la cohérence entre les activités de la feuille de route et les politiques de conservation des deux pays.

### **3.0. Recommandations**

A l'issue des travaux, les Experts recommandent au CBSA :

- d'accorder un délai supplémentaire de deux ans maximum à l'OCFSA à l'effet de mettre en place le Secrétariat de l'Accord BSB- Yamoussa ;
- d'initier une rencontre de la partie camerounaise en vue d'aborder la problématique de l'orpaillage au nord du PNBN impliquant toutes les administrations concernées et les Partenaires Techniques et Financiers (WCS et GIZ) ;
- de donner quitus au Comité Binational de Planification et d'Exécution pour préparer le protocole spécifique pour la mise en place et le fonctionnement du Comité Scientifique et Technique Binational (CSTB).

Enfin, les Experts ont apprécié la qualité des présentations et des échanges et estimé les objectifs de la session atteints. Ils ont une fois de plus remercié la Coopération Allemande à travers le Projet BSB Yamoussa pour ses appuis multiformes et son engagement à poursuivre cette collaboration.

Libreville le 05 juillet 2022

**For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-partenaires/CTSA-RDP19.html>**



## Accord de coopération TCHAD-CAMEROUN



FEUILLE DE ROUTE 2023-2024

**Budget estimatif de 4 645 000 Euros**

### 1. PROTECTION, SURVEILLANCE ET SUIVI DES CONTENTIEUX : 2,5 Millions d'euros

Activités	Périodicité	Responsable	Partenaire
1. Organiser les patrouilles Binationale LAB	Tous les deux mois	Chef de la brigade binationale	WCS
2. Renforcer les capacités de membres de la Brigade binationale	Continue	Chef de la brigade binationale	WCS
3. Sensibiliser les autorités transfrontalières sur les textes régissant le BSB	Continue	Conservateurs	PTFs
4. Mettre en place et assurer le fonctionnement d'une plateforme de concertation des acteurs de la LAB autour du BSB (Opérationnaliser la cellule de répression et de suivi du contentieux du BSB)	Trimestrielle	Conservateurs	WCS et GIZ
5. Actualiser et valider le code de conduite du personnel impliqué dans la LAB	Janvier 2023	Conservateurs	WCS
6. Actualiser et valider la chaîne de renseignement et d'alerte du BSB	Janvier 2023	Conservateurs	WCS
7. Assurer le fonctionnement de la cellule de renseignement transfrontalière	Continue	Procureurs du BSB et FMO du BSB	WCS
9. Mettre en place et assurer le fonctionnement d'une unité « YAMOUSA » chargée de sensibiliser les bergers qui viole le territoire des APs du complexe BSB	Janvier 2023	Conservateur	WCS
10. Mettre en place un mode d'investigation, d'identification et d'application la loi dans toute sa rigueur pour les propriétaires bovins qui violent l'intégrité du BSB	Janvier 2023	Procureur et Président des tribunaux du BSB	WCS

## Annex IV: Annexed Partner Meetings

GIZ (BSB Yamoussa), COMIFAC – *Feuille de Route 2023-2023 à soumettre au CBSA pour validation*

12. Procéder aux investigations et à l'interpellation des détenteurs illégaux d'armes et de munitions autour du BSB	Continue	Procureurs du BSB	WCS
13. Renforcer les effectifs des écogardes du PNB et du PNSO	Janvier 2023	MINFOF/MEPDD	WCS
14. Créer deux (02) unités Régionale LAB (Région du Nord pour le Cameroun et Mayo Kebbi pour le Tchad), pour assurer l'organisation et la coordination d'une LAB efficace dans tout le	Décembre 2023	MINFOF/MEPDD	WCS
15. Assurer le fonctionnement des deux (02) unités Régionale LAB	Continue à partir de janvier 2024	MINFOF/MEPDD	WCS
16. Affecter le personnel aux deux (02) unités Régionale LAB	Janvier 2024	MINFOF/MEPDD	WCS
17. Assurer le fonctionnement de la Brigade binationale LAB (organisation et intensification de la patrouille LAB binationale	Continue	MINFOF/MEPDD	WCS
18. Assurer le fonctionnement des Cellules d'appui au BSB	Continue	MINFOF/MEPDD	WCS et GIZ
19. Renforcer les capacités des gestionnaires des aires protégées du complexe BSB en matière leadership, de gestion des équipes et de la recherche des financements	Continue	MINFOF/MEPDD	WCS et GIZ
20. Finaliser le processus de relocalisation des populations riveraines du PNSO	2023	MEPDD	WCS et GIZ
21. Assurer le survol régulier des APs du BSB	Continue	WCS	

## 2. LA TRANSHUMANANCE (1,5 Millions d'euros)

Activités	Périodicité	Responsable	Partenaire
1. Organiser des rencontres pays avec les différentes sectorielles pour l'élaboration et la validation des programmes d'investissement pays dans le cadre de la gestion de la transhumance pour le PFBC	Janvier et février 2023	MINFOF/MEPDD	WCS et GIZ



## Annex IV: Annexed Partner Meetings

GIZ (BSB Yamoussa), COMIFAC – *Feuille de Route 2023-2023 à soumettre au CBSA pour validation*

2. Organiser des rencontres techniques niveau BSB avec les différentes sectorielles pour la définition participative des couloirs de transhumance à inclure dans les programmes d'investissement pays dans le cadre de la gestion de la transhumance pour le PFBC	Janvier et février 2023	MINFOF/MEPDD	WCS et GIZ
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### 3. ZOONOSE ET « ONE HEALTH » (450 000 euros)

Activités	Périodicité	Responsable	Partenaire
1. Valider le protocole de fonctionnement du groupe conseil zoonose	Janvier 2023	CBPE	GIZ
2. Tenir les rencontres périodiques du groupe conseil zoonose	Semestriel	CBPE	GIZ
3. Mettre en place d'un système d'épidémie-surveillance pour le suivi zoonotique dans le BSB	Continue	CBPE	GIZ
4. Former les parties prenantes sur la surveillance des zoonoses prioritaires de la faune sauvage dans le BSB	Continue	CBPE	GIZ
5. Former les parties prenantes sur la biosécurité, la biosureté, l'identification des cas suspects de fièvre hémorragiques chez l'Homme et les prélèvements de choix	Continue	CBPE	GIZ
6. Mettre en place un système de dépistage des zoonoses dans les troupeaux transhumants et des sujets humains contacts autour du BSB	Continue	CBPE	GIZ
7. Renforcer les capacités des personnels de laboratoire de Santé humaines et animales	Continue	CBPE	GIZ

## Annex IV: Annexed Partner Meetings

GIZ (BSB Yamoussa), COMIFAC – *Feuille de Route 2023-2023 à soumettre au CBSA pour validation*

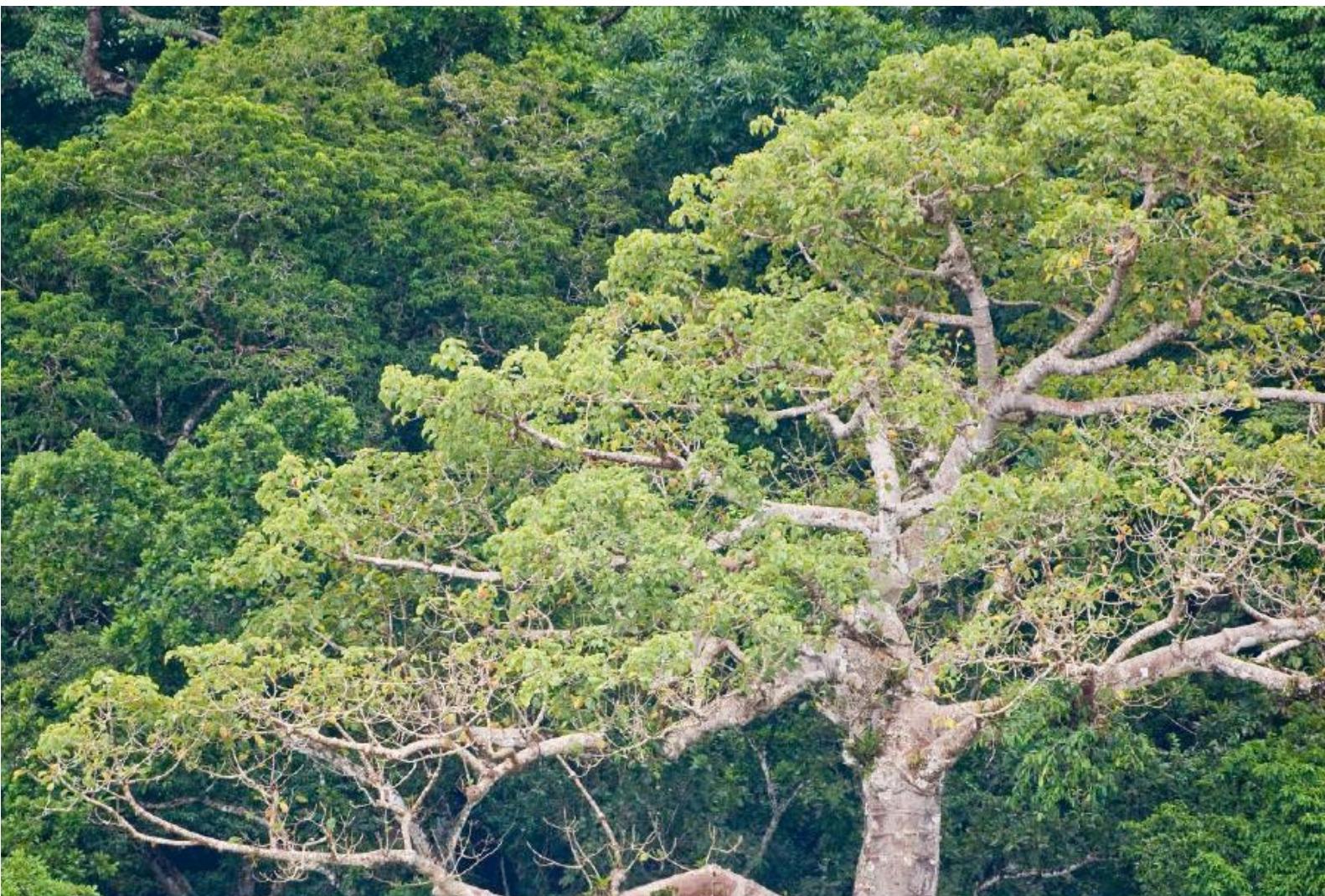
### 4. ACCORDS DE COOPERATION ET PROTOCOLE SPECIFIQUE ECODEVELOPPEMENT (195 000 Euros)

Activités	Périodicité	Responsable	Partenaire
1. Réaliser le micro zonage dans le BSB et renforcer les capacités des populations pour leur implication effective et responsable dans la gestion du terroir	Continue	Conservateurs	GIZ
2. Mettre en œuvre la stratégie de communication du complexe BSB	Continue	MINOF/MEPDD	GIZ et WCS
3. Harmoniser la législation entre les deux Etats	2023-2024	COMIFAC/CBPE	GIZ et WCS
4. Harmoniser la stratégie de lutte contre les feux de brousse, les pollutions et autres nuisances	Jun 2023	CBPE/Conservateurs	GIZ et WCS
5. Mener les recherches scientifiques	Continue	CSTB	GIZ et WCS
6. Renforcer le contrôle pour l'exploitation des ressources dans le BSB	Continue	CBPE/Conservateurs	GIZ et WCS
7. Elaborer le protocole spécifique pour la mise en place et le fonctionnement du CSTB	Décembre 2023	CBPE	GIZ et WCS
8. Informer et sensibiliser les Autorités administratives, politiques, militaires et traditionnelles au niveau local et régional sur l'Accord et de sa mise en œuvre	Continue	CBPE	GIZ et WCS
9. Mettre en place le secrétariat de l'Accord	Jun 2023	OCFSA	GIZ et WCS
10. Tenir la 3 <sup>e</sup> session du CBSA	2024	CBSA	GIZ et WCS
11. Valider les cahiers de charge des points focaux pays de l'accord BSB	Janvier 2023	CBPE	GIZ et WCS

For further information and downloads, please visit: <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-partenaires/CTSA-RDP19.html>

## Annex V: CBFP Study Package

*Protecting the forests of the Congo Basin: Synthesis report of studies conducted during the German Facilitation of the CBFP in 2021*



## Protecting the forests of the Congo Basin

Synthesis report of studies conducted during  
the German Facilitation of the CBFP in 2021



# Protecting the forests of the Congo Basin

Synthesis report of studies conducted during  
the German Facilitation of the CBFP in 2021

## **Client**

German Facilitation to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership

## **Authors**

Dr. Johannes Pirker & Dr. Till Pistorius, based on contributions of the study authors:

- REDD+: Dr. Johannes Pirker (UNIQUE forestry and land use, Germany) & Dr. Sophia Carodenuto (University of Victoria, Canada)
- China: Peng Ren & Jingwei Zhang (Global Environmental Institute, China)
- Value Chains: Dr. Romain Pirard (ONFI, France)
- Land Use Planning: James Acworth & Pascal Douard (independent experts)
- Transhumance: Leonard Usongo (Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society, CWCS) & Dr. Moussa Baschirou (Communauté Economique pour les Etats de l'Afrique Centrale, CEEAC)
- Ecotourism: Paul T. Telfer, Patricia E. Reed, DVM

**Date:** August 2021

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**Annex V: CBFP Study Package**

*Protecting the forests of the Congo Basin: Synthesis report of studies conducted during the German Facilitation of the CBFP in 2021*



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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AFR100 .....	<i>African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative</i>
AUDA-NEPAD.....	<i>African Union Development Agency</i>
BMZ .....	<i>German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development</i>
CAFI .....	<i>Central African Forest Initiative</i>
CAP–ECCAS...	<i>Common Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of Central African States</i>
CBD .....	<i>Convention on Biological Diversity</i>
CBFP.....	<i>Congo Basin Forest Partnership</i>
CBO .....	<i>Community-based organization</i>
COMIFAC .....	<i>Central African Forestry Commission</i>
COP .....	<i>Conference of the Parties</i>
DRC .....	<i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>
ECCAS .....	<i>Economic Commission of Central Africa</i>
ERPA .....	<i>Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement</i>
FCPF.....	<i>Forest Carbon Partnership Facility under the World Bank</i>
FLR.....	<i>Forest Landscape Restoration</i>
FSC.....	<i>Forest Stewardship Council</i>
GCF .....	<i>Green Climate Fund</i>
GHGs.....	<i>Greenhouse Gases</i>
REDD+.....	<i>Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries</i>
RoC .....	<i>Republic of the Congo</i>
SDGs .....	<i>Sustainable Development Goals</i>
SNDI.....	<i>Strategy Against Imported Deforestation</i>
UNFCCC .....	<i>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</i>
UN-REDD .....	<i>Joint readiness support for REDD+ countries by UNDP, UNEP and FAO</i>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

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Across the world, climate change is becoming visible and part of people's lived experience. This is particularly true for people exposed to local extreme weather events and whose livelihoods depend directly on land use, but also in places where slow and gradual climate trends are materializing, such as changing precipitation patterns and ecosystem compositions. Despite three decades of international attempts and negotiations to address climate change and degrading ecosystems, the problems of rising greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems remain unabated. In contrast, climate change is becoming a major driver of further human-induced change; for example, the increasing intensity and extent of forest fires across the globe significantly adds to direct human emissions and underlines the urgency for effective measures.

The need for, and co-benefits of, effectively protecting terrestrial carbon pools and making use of their function as carbon sinks is widely recognized. Supported by ambitious international and national policy targets and initiatives, many institutions from academia, civil society, governments, development cooperation and the private sector have developed approaches and are working towards achieving the agreed targets related to the protection of forests.

The Congo Basin, with its total forest cover of approximately 268 Mio. ha (in 2010, de Wasseige et al. 2012), harbors more than 90% of Africa's dense forests, at the beginning of this century representing 17% of the primary forest area worldwide (Turubanova et al. 2018). Thus, the forests of the Congo Basin represent the world's second largest remaining tropical forest cover. This "green lung" still has many large intact forest areas that provide vital ecosystem services – locally as well as globally. In contrast to other tropical forests and countries, especially in Latin America or Southeast Asia, the processes leading to forest frontiers and large-scale conversion according to the forest transition curve are still at a rather early stage. Or put more simply: there is still much to protect for the benefit of humans across the globe. However, the pressures are increasing, and the large intact forest areas of the Congo Basin are in urgent need of protection. Multiple pressures put these forests and the ecosystem services they provide locally and globally at risk.

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) was launched in 2002 and currently consists of 121 partner institutions. These include ten member countries of the Economic Commission of Central Africa (ECCAS) and Central African Forestry Commission (COMIFAC), and more than 100 affiliated partners. Partners include donor countries, civil society organizations and international NGOs, multilateral organizations, academic and training institutions, and private sector actors. In accordance with the COMIFAC Convergence Plan and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the partners share the vision of protecting these unique forest ecosystems and thereby contribute significantly to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable management, the fight against climate change and poverty reduction in the Central African member countries. With this broad and inclusive composition, the CBPF provides a comprehensive and multi-faceted network and an international platform for promoting the protection and sustainable management of the Congo Basin's forests. This is a widely recognized prerequisite and contribution to simultaneously address global climate change and biodiversity loss, while fostering poverty reduction and sustainable economic development in the region – in line with the COMIFAC Convergence Plan and the SDGs.

## Annex V: CBFP Study Package

*Protecting the forests of the Congo Basin: Synthesis report of studies conducted during the German Facilitation of the CBFP in 2021*



The Government of Germany has a long history of providing substantive technical and financial support to forest protection and sustainable use in general, and specifically to the countries of the Congo Basin. In line with these strong and lasting relationships, Germany has assumed responsibility for the facilitation of the CBFP in the current term. In December 2019, the facilitation was handed over from the Kingdom of Belgium, represented by Minister of State François-Xavier De Donnea, to the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the new CBFP Facilitator Dr. Christian Ruck. On 14 February 2020, Dr. Gerd Müller – German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – officially launched the German Facilitation in the presence of representatives from COMIFAC member countries and commenced the work of the German Facilitation for the period 2020–2021.

The focus of the German Facilitation of the CBFP in 2020 and 2021 was to use the global momentum for protecting forests in the context of addressing climate change and loss of biodiversity. Through intensive coordination efforts, one aim was to facilitate a joint declaration to be presented at the two key conferences scheduled for the end of 2021: the CBD COP 15 for the new strategic plan and post-2020 global biodiversity framework in Kunming / China, and UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow / United Kingdom.

In addition to this effort at the global policy level, the facilitation commissioned six thematic studies related to specific opportunities and challenges for the forests of the Congo Basin and the people who depend directly on the products, biodiversity and ecosystem services the forests provide. The six studies and a policy brief for each study were prepared between December 2020 and August 2021. They focus on the following topics:

- REDD+ by Dr. Johannes Pirker (UNIQUE forestry and land use GmbH) and Dr. Sophia Carodenuto, University of Victoria)
- China by Mr. Ren Peng and Ms. Jingwei Zhang (Global Environment Institute)
- Value Chains by Dr. Romain Pirard (ONF-International)
- Land Use Planning by James Acworth and Pascal Douard
- Transhumance by Mr. Leonard Usongo and Dr. Moussa Baschirou
- Ecotourism by Mr. Paul Telfer

The COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions posed unexpected challenges to the German Facilitation and its planned contributions – conferences were postponed, physical meetings had to be canceled, and planned workshops and field visits to gather on-the-ground insights were only possible to a very limited extent. However, despite these difficulties and a greater need than ever to protect the remaining intact forests, the thematic inputs for the declaration and further work have been concluded successfully.

All studies and policy briefs will be made available through the CBFP. The objective of this study is to summarize the key findings and recommendations, and to synthesize a bigger picture on the needs and progress to protect the Congo Basin forests. It sheds light on shortcomings, needs and entry points for achieving the described objectives.



## 2 PROTECTING THE FORESTS OF THE CONGO BASIN

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The Congo Basin forests are essential to local populations. They provide a livelihood for 60 million people who live in or near them. They also provide essential social and cultural functions for local and indigenous people, and contribute more indirectly to the livelihoods of the 40 million people who live in urban centers near these forest estates (Nasi et al., 2011).

Tropical forests are exceptional reservoirs of carbon and biodiversity. The Congo Basin is the second largest contiguous tropical forest area in the world after the Amazon. It is among the last large remaining forest carbon pools on the planet and currently remains a relatively stable carbon sink where ongoing forest losses are still outweighed by carbon sequestration of standing forests. This puts the Congo Basin forests in a unique position given that carbon pools of the tropical forest biomes in the Amazon and Southeast Asia are already declining (Harris et al., 2021).

The forests harbor extraordinary biodiversity with a very high level of endemism (Billand, 2012); The flora in the low-altitude forests is made up of more than 10,000 species of higher plants, of which 3,000 are endemic. Montane forests are home to 4,000 species, with at least 70% of them endemic. The Congo Basin forests house iconic species such as African elephants and buffalo alongside such endemic species as the okapi, the bongo, the bonobo, and the gorilla as well as many endemic species of birds.

The areas with the greatest variety of species are the forests of Lower Guinea in the west (Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon) and those of the Albertine Rift in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Billand, 2012). However, unprecedented increases in poaching, population growth, infrastructure and forest fragmentation, mining, and the growing demand for agro-industrial production are further driving loss of species and habitats.

### 2.1 Drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and degradation in the Congo Basin

In contrast to other tropical forest biomes, the contemporary loss of forests in the Congo Basin is still mainly driven by subsistence and small-scale semi-commercial farmers. They often clear forest patches for food production (Tyukavina et al., n.d.) and to supply the residents of nearby towns and, to a small but growing extent, international commodity markets (Megevand et al., 2012).

With a high volume of small-scale deforestation agents spread across the landscapes, deforestation and forest degradation trends are closely linked to domestic “megatrends” such as population growth and urbanization. Growing rates of urbanization stimulate the development of commercial agriculture for food supply as well as timber extraction to supply a growing construction sector and the expanding demand for energy among the urban population.

Deforestation and forest degradation are the end point of a causal chain of mechanisms. Exemplary for other Congo Basin countries, the national REDD+ strategy of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) names four underlying causes of deforestation, which, mediated through several (spatial) determinants constitute five main direct causes of forest loss: smallholder slash-and-

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burn agriculture, artisanal logging, charcoal burning, mining and (man-made) wildfires (cf. Figure below).

Main direct causes	Proximate causes	Underlying causes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Smallholder slash-and-burn agriculture</li><li>▪ Artisanal logging</li><li>▪ Charcoal making</li><li>▪ Mining</li><li>▪ Wildfires (man-made)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Biophys. factors: degraded forests</li><li>▪ Biophys. factors: fragmentation</li><li>▪ Agriculture: rural complex</li><li>▪ Transport: roads</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Demographic pressure</li><li>▪ Institutional aspects</li><li>▪ Urbanisation</li><li>▪ Econ. aspects: Unemployment &amp; poverty</li></ul>

**Figure 1: Drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation (modified from République Démocratique du Congo (2012); terminology from Meyfroidt (2016))**

According to Tchatchou *et al.* (2015), net deforestation rates in the Congo Basin have increased from 0.09% (1990–2000) to 0.17% between 2000 and 2005. In the DRC, where 62% of the Basin’s forests are located, the rates are even higher and have been increasing further, especially during the last five years<sup>1</sup>.

Agents, drivers and underlying causes vary over time and from country to country. Strategies to effectively address forest exploitation must therefore reflect national circumstances and align action plans with sustainable development agendas. However, despite many efforts, direct and indirect pressures on the forests are increasing, and new drivers of deforestation and forest degradation appear to be gaining prominence – next to the existing drivers that often correlate with rapidly growing populations in all countries in the Basin (e.g., subsistence agriculture, charcoal).

In the absence of effective conservation and sustainable production, there is a high risk that global demand for timber and other commodities will drive forest over-exploitation. For example, importing countries such as China and Vietnam report having significantly increased imports of logs and sawn timber from the Congo Basin (especially from Cameroon but also from DRC and Republic of the Congo (RoC)) following the imposition and enforcement of export restrictions by Laos PDR and Cambodia (To *et al.*, 2020). The same holds true for mining, oil and gas exploitation: a recent study by Grantham *et al.* (2021) shows that in Central Africa approximately 221,000 km<sup>2</sup> of intact forest landscapes are covered by corresponding exploitation contracts, 182,000 km<sup>2</sup> in the DRC alone and another 36,000 km<sup>2</sup> in RoC.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/>

## 2.2 Initiatives and efforts aimed at protecting the Congo Basin forests

Numerous bilateral or multi-lateral initiatives and partnerships share the common objective and vision of tackling the drivers and underlying causes of forest loss and halting the declining trend of Congo Basin forests – in line with the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, the strategic plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the land degradation neutrality targets of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the SDGs and the New York Declaration on forests of the United Nations.

In the context of readiness and piloting REDD+ implementation, countries in the Congo Basin have begun to streamline their institutions and national efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. For multilateral coordination, the following key institutions promote forest protection at scale in the Congo Basin. They are often linked to bi- and multilateral sources of funding for forest conservation and restoration efforts (Etat des forêts 2020, forthcoming). Key institutions include:

- **Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI).** CAFI is a collaborative partnership that brings together six Central African high forest cover countries and a coalition of donor countries. CAFI also serves as an operational vehicle for bilateral agreements for results-based payments between individual countries of the Congo Basin and donor countries; the recent agreement between Gabon and Norway is an example of this.
- **Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC).** Founded in 1999, it consists of 10 governments within and neighboring the Congo Basin, with the main aim to coordinate measures for the protection of its forests.
- **Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)** under the administration of the World Bank. It supports many Congo Basin countries through the Readiness Fund to meet UNFCCC requirements of the Warsaw framework of REDD+; in addition, the FCPF Carbon Fund provides funding for jurisdictional REDD+ programs, so-called Emissions Reduction Purchase Agreements (ERPA). The FCPF has signed ERPAs with two countries in the Basin: DRC and RoC.
- **UN-REDD** program, which also supports country-led processes for REDD+ readiness.
- **Green Climate Fund (GCF).** The GCF provides climate-related funding (in the context of the land use sector for mitigation, adaptation and cross-cutting programs), including REDD+ and Ecosystem-based Adaptation.
- **African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).** The AFR100 is a country-led effort coordinated by NEPAD to contribute to the restoration targets of the Bonn Challenge, the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative, the African Union Agenda 2063 and other targets. It does so by bringing 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030. It aims to accelerate restoration to enhance food security, increase climate change resilience and mitigation, and combat rural poverty.

## 3 KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDIES

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The following section provides a very brief overview of the six studies commissioned by the CBFP Facilitation. These treat the topics (i) REDD+, (ii) transhumance, (iii) the role of China, (iv) value chains, (iv) land use planning and (v) ecotourism. For more detailed information the reader is referred to the full study reports available from the CBFP homepage.

### 3.1 REDD+ in selected Congo Basin countries

In 2005, when REDD+ negotiations began in the context of a global climate agreement under the UNFCCC, many countries supported the idea of a results-based payment mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation – including most Congo Basin countries who had high expectations for significant payments. While the rules were concluded and the countries received different levels of support (for readiness, implementation and pilot programs), a mechanism was not institutionalized under the Paris Agreement.

The study conducted assessed the status-quo of REDD+ implementation in the DRC, Gabon and Cameroon. The findings reveal that countries remain formally engaged in REDD+ but still have not fully completed the readiness phase (phase 1). Hence, they struggle to receive investments and funding for implementation (phase 2), let alone to access results-based payments (phase 3) if respective funding windows are created under the GCF. There is renewed interest from countries and donors to revive REDD+ efforts, especially in those countries and provinces harboring large areas of stable forests combined with yet low rates of deforestation.

The analysis has also shown that results-based payments as conceptualized under REDD+ alone are not the “silver bullet” solution to counter all forest loss in the Congo Basin, as many had hoped for in the early stages of the REDD+ negotiations. Rather, results-based approaches to remunerate the ecosystem services provided to the world by the region’s forests need to be context-specific, straightforward, and innovative. Protecting Congo Basin forests requires tailor-made, realistic, and ambitious approaches with incentives to pursue REDD+ at multiple stages.

The ongoing revision of the rules for international funding sources (CAFI, FCPF Carbon Fund, GCF) opens a window of opportunity to elevate standing forests on funders’ agendas and to close the financing gap for standing forests. Question marks remain for some countries regarding their technical and implementation capacities and varying degrees of willingness on the part of governments to preserve standing forests.

### 3.2 Transhumance and the N’Djamena Declaration

Livestock farming is a key economic activity for the whole of Central Africa and transhumance is a traditional form of living. As a result of population growth and urbanization, the demand for animal products is increasing rapidly throughout the region. This represents an economic opportunity for all animal production sectors, including mobile production systems like transhumance.

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Unsustainable forms of transhumance and neo-pastoralism often generate conflicts between pastoralists and farmers, between different herder communities, and lately between herders and protected area managers. Moreover, transhumance is being increasingly militarized under the control of absentee herdowners. This *neo-pastoralism* is rapidly gaining ground in most parts of West and Central Africa. The fragile political situation in most countries – particularly the Sahel region, with increased operations and control of large territories by extremist groups – has contributed to the expansion of investments in neo-pastoralism. This phenomenon is characterized by the control and trafficking of large herds of livestock by influential leaders, warlords and even established businessmen and politicians and is often intertwined with illegal activities such as drug and arms trafficking. With growing populations and demand, livestock increases the pressures on dry forests and savannahs in the region. Addressing this driver and its agents is particularly challenging as it is a transboundary phenomenon that requires coordinated action.

The study has shown that cross-border transhumance still needs to be better understood to derive policies and action plans to minimize the impact on forests. Potential policy options include strengthening the regulation of pastoralism and putting this issue on the agenda of Central African governments. Regional efforts such as the N’Djamena Declaration should be followed to address the cross-border phenomenon. Future studies should (i) focus on the characterization and mapping of transhumance-related conflicts, (ii) assess the impact of neo-pastoralism on the socio-economic realm and biodiversity and (iii) analyze the role of actors in cross-border transhumance and local diplomacy.

The fragile political situation in the Sahel region, with increased operations and control of large territories by extremist groups is contributing to the expansion of investments in neo-pastoralism. The ongoing reformulation of the Common Agricultural Policy of the Economic Community of Central African States offers a key opportunity to elevate transhumance on the political agenda.

### 3.3 The role of China in conserving the forests of the Congo Basin

The Congo Basin’s economic relations with China, though having emerged more recently than those with the Western hemisphere, are growing at a fast pace. This is particularly the case for the forest and infrastructure construction sectors, both of which have a potentially high impact on forests. Timber sourced from the Congo Basin countries represents a large and growing proportion of China’s African timber import – both directly, and via countries with a large timber processing industry such as Vietnam.

The study underlines the importance of China for the future of the Basin’s forests. The value of Chinese foreign direct investment stock and flows into the Congo Basin shows an upward trend, which is growing even faster than Chinese investments in other African regions.

A whole supply chain approach with trilateral cooperation between China, the Congo Basin, the EU and other international partners has been identified as a possible way forward. Stakeholders along the global timber trade supply chain could support each other in overcoming constraints of sustainable value chain management and proactively exchange best practice experiences.

Linkages and potential synergies between the EU Timber Regulation and China’s 2020 Forest Law Article 65, as well as legislation and regulations in the Congo Basin countries on timber trade

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legality verification, merit further exploration, as does a mechanism to increase demand for legal and sustainable certified timber in China.

Existing frameworks could be utilized to realize bilateral cooperation between China and other consumer markets such as the EU and Germany, and to foster joint programs in the Congo Basin countries. For example, the existing Sino-German Center for Sustainable Development could serve as a platform for trilateral collaboration in the Congo Basin.

### 3.4 The role of key value chains for conservation and sustainable use

Even though conversion for industrial or export-oriented agriculture or timber extraction is still less dominant in the Congo Basin than in Southeast Asia or Latin America, the trend is obvious, and key export commodities responsible for forest conversion are increasing, most notably in the Central African region.

Gabon recently announced its intention to make FSC timber certification mandatory from 2022 onwards for all concessionaires willing to keep operating in the country. This form of hybrid governance (i.e., harnessing complementarity between government objectives and products and private sector strategies) is relatively advanced in Gabon and this unprecedented policy stands as an intriguing and promising example in the region. The effects of this policy on the ground are yet to be seen; this fiscal arrangement deserves to be given time to unfold and succeed.

Zero-deforestation commitments for palm oil have been made in Cameroon. However, the expected impacts of these are limited, primarily due to the very structure and dynamics of this sector where informal actors and artisanal mills proliferate, are outside the control of both the authorities and private industries, are associated with large-scale deforestation, and are not in the least concerned by foreign markets or consumer pressure. We contend that Cameroon's approach to zero-deforestation commitments could serve as a source of inspiration for other Congo Basin countries and they could retain its positive aspects (e.g., national strategy, ambitious industrial players) while avoiding its negative ones (e.g., limited scope, public companies not leading by example).

Switching perspective and looking at the demand side, France has recently adopted its National Strategy Against Imported Deforestation (SNDI). Although it is still nascent and does not yet present effective and conclusive responses to all technical or political challenges, the SNDI provides a good source of lessons learnt for similar policies in other countries. One point of convergence for all debated issues within the SNDI relates to the means of discriminating between sustainably and unsustainably produced commodities. Here, discussions revolve around the reliance on existing standards, zero-deforestation commitments by companies, jurisdictional certification, or the creation of new ad-hoc labels to serve this objective.

The verve of corporate zero-deforestation commitments can catalyze change in the oil palm and other sectors in Central Africa. Yet an inconvenient truth seems to be that the bulk of deforestation is happening outside of concessions and is thus beyond the responsibility of industrial actors, with the implication that the corporate zero-deforestation commitments lack teeth. In the industrial logging sector, Gabon has set a precedent for a tax scheme incentivizing sustainable and certified production and the tax reforms carried out could serve as a blueprint for other Congo Basin countries, notably Cameroon.

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Despite the generally high degree of consistency of measures adopted by Gabon, open questions persist regarding including misalignment between processing capacities and domestic timber supplies, possible disruption if mandatory certification is enforced as stated, and rigor in monitoring the stated objectives.

### 3.5 Improving land use planning for better forest governance

Land use planning has been heralded as an essential foundation for better land governance, more coherent development planning and reconciling competing pressures on land from different land use sectors in fast growing Central African economies. Commercial forestry, industrial agriculture, and infrastructural expansion compete for rural land (and political support) with small- to medium-scale agriculture and conservation.

One of the overall challenges is that different actors have substantially different understandings of the purpose and scope of land use planning. The model of “*Aménagement du Territoire*” rooted in colonial times, is primarily conducted to ‘balance social and economic development throughout the national territory’.

Carefully executed and facilitated land use planning at the relevant scale offers a means to explore options and reach consensus on optimal land use outcomes. There are always trade-offs between sources of revenue (timber, oil palm or other commodities) and who benefits. The increasing interest in payments for environmental services and carbon finance can tip the balance in favor of green economy options (more, better quality forest) but the negotiations must be done case by case and the results fed back into policy making.

Participatory local land use planning that has secured free prior informed consent of affected stakeholders should become a legal requirement and prerequisite for all significant land allocations. Land use plans must be spatially explicit development plans that trigger immediate funding if stakeholders are expected to invest time and effort to participate in their preparation.

### 3.6 Opportunities and challenges related to promoting eco-tourism in the Congo Basin

For many African countries, tourism revenue is an important source of income and helps create jobs, promote entrepreneurship, and develop local economies. There are at least three prerequisites for tourism development – quality attractions, good accommodation, and easy access – and these are often referred to as the “three A’s”. Over that last decade, there have been several private investors that have taken tentative steps toward pioneering professional ecotourism in Gabon, RoC, and CAR.

It is important to recognize that these private businesses are key for sustainable economic development, creating the nascent hospitality industry and marketing the tourism products to compete with other destinations in the world. Nevertheless, in the Congo Basin they often act without financial support from government or other donors and their investments are at risk due to many bureaucratic and logistical hurdles. It can be concluded that, to date, ecotourism development in the Congo Basin has not been a priority, and that the necessary enabling conditions have not yet been created.

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Governments should play a stronger role in accelerating ecotourism development by putting in place necessary enabling conditions. Recommendations to overcome key challenges include holding a subject-related presidential summit, easing access to visas, and removing travel barriers. If implemented, such steps could greatly improve the competitiveness of the region and accelerate the development of ecotourism as a viable economic sector even in challenging political contexts.



## 4 OUTLOOK: OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

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Globally, there is a broad consensus that the remaining intact tropical and subtropical forests must be effectively preserved. The pressures remain unabated, and if the remaining large forests and their carbon reservoirs turn into sources of GHGs it will not be possible to achieve the climate goals as agreed in the UNFCCC Paris Agreement. On the contrary, to reach the 1.5°C target, cost-effective nature-based solutions will have to provide an estimated 37% of the necessary mitigation of GHG emissions by 2030; globally, forest conservation and forest landscape restoration (FLR) can contribute about 69% of this potential (own calculation based on Griscom et al. (2020)).

In many African countries, nature-based solutions are among the most cost-effective options to protect the climate and achieve other sustainable development goals (Fuss et al. 2021). The environmental services provided by tropical forests are regionally and globally relevant as public goods, but so far, they have not been adequately remunerated: only about 3% of public international climate finance has been earmarked for tropical forest protection to date (Haupt et al., 2020). While international governance approaches and financing instruments for sustainable forest use and rehabilitation have been created, aside from REDD+, no instrument or mechanism exists for compensating the protection of standing forests.

After a decade of readiness support, only few countries in the world already meet all requirements to fully implement REDD+ as foreseen by the Warsaw Framework on REDD+, concluded at UNFCCC COP19 in 2013. REDD+ implementation as envisioned by the Warsaw Framework and organizations such as FCPF and GCF has been particularly challenging for African countries and has so far fallen short of the high expectations. Many REDD+ countries perceive the technical and political hurdles to implementing REDD+ across sectors to be too high – and access to finance unclear and insufficient.

As drivers of deforestation and forest degradation are cross-sectoral in nature, saving standing forests requires the involvement of a range of sectors. Land use planning is one of the most important cross-cutting actions to be carried out by governments to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation commitments such as those made in the Nationally Determined Contributions or National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans. Notably transhumance, the future expansion of agricultural land into forests or mining concessions on forest land require sound planning and regulation at multiple levels – also in terms of credibility for donors and impact investors. Effective land use planning will balance the economic needs of the population with the countries' commitments to protect the climate. Countries' capacities to harmonize sectoral planning and effectively implement policies remain limited. Land use planning will also be key to integrating the three common but separated approaches to saving forests into one coherent approach: protection, management and restoration of forests.

Due to the lengthy process of specifying the Paris agreement of 2015, the inherent funding promise for REDD+ is still pending: except for bilateral agreements with Norway, results-based REDD+ funding to selected countries is mainly provided through the FCPF Carbon Fund or through the GCF. Hence, the financing gap for the protection of intact forest areas in the Congo Basin persists.

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Even though with DRC and RoC two jurisdictional pilot programs were agreed and are being implemented under the FCPF Carbon Fund (plus a bilateral agreement between Gabon and Norway), the provided funding is far from sufficient to effectively protect the forests of the region. Thus, the overall amounts are significantly less than what has been expected or would be needed in terms of providing economically viable alternatives to unsustainable forest uses.

The ex-post nature of results-based payments creates another often discussed challenge: successful implementation requires significant upfront investments. Different ways of involving private sector investment could and should play a bigger role, for example through FLR programs which provide livelihood alternatives and reduce the pressure on forests, sustainable commodity production and voluntary carbon markets. However, especially with regards to conservation and accounting, this approach presents its own challenges and it depends what role these markets will play in the context of the UNFCCC negotiations on article 6.

Public and international funding remains limited but has an important catalytic role for leveraging available finance. Supportive legal and fiduciary frameworks in consumer countries create pressure for urgent action. Next to European countries, China as major importer of goods from the Congo Basin and the wood processing industry in Vietnam merit specific attention in this context. In the Congo Basin countries, regulatory frameworks can create a climate that is favorable to investments in green supply chains and forest restoration. Similarly, provided that the necessary infrastructure can be established, ecotourism is more than a niche option for the rural economy – where the circumstances render it a viable opportunity to value nature.

It can be expected that the modalities for international climate finance are being revised and further developed. One option is a robust milestone approach for scheduling reliable payments based on results, e.g., agreeing on and implementing a needed sectoral reform or revising old concessions. Compared to results-based payments as understood in the context of REDD+, such a milestone approach allows grant countries liquidity early on, thus maintaining motivation for the often thorny and lengthy policy implementation processes.

Further, successful forest policies require assignment and coordination of relevant initiatives, organizations, and instruments. This includes, amongst others, key institutions such as the World Bank, regional development banks, specialized funds, bilateral donors, UN organizations, and NGOs. A sensible allocation of private and public funds and meaningful combination of the various financing instruments (e.g., sectoral reforms in a milestones approach, subsidies, loans, emissions trade) and initiatives (e.g., bilateral development organizations, LEAF coalition, Tropical Forest Alliance, CAFI) holds the most potential to achieve positive results.

Despite all the opportunities to tap into different public and private funding sources, the governments involved – donors and beneficiaries – have to be aware of the pressures and that without concerted efforts on all sides, the Congo Basin forests are likely to face a similar fate as other now largely destroyed forest areas.

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Facilitation of the Republic of Germany  
of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership

[www.pfbc-cbfp.org](http://www.pfbc-cbfp.org)  
[info@cbfp-pfbc.org](mailto:info@cbfp-pfbc.org)

