



Congo Basin Forest Partnership

Final Communiqué

Second International Ministerial Conference on Transborder Transhumance

**Nexus: transhumance, protected areas and natural
resources, development, peace and security**

Held in

Yaounde – Cameroon, from July 10 to 12, 2023.

1. Under the High Patronage of His Excellency PAUL BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon and Head of State, the High-Level meeting of the *Second International Conference of Ministers on Transborder Transhumance, Nexus: transhumance, protected areas and natural resources, development, peace and security* was held in Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon, from July 10 to 12, 2023.
2. This meeting was organized by the Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) in close collaboration with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and Cameroon. It received financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), implemented by GIZ.
3. The aim of the meeting was to assess the implementation of the Ndjamen Declaration since it was approved by the signatory countries in January 2019, and to identify priority actions for the future.

There were over 250 participants from the ECCAS, ECOWAS and IGAD sub-regions, as well as participants from other countries and conservation and development organizations. Some fifty participants also took part online.

The expert meeting focused on the following points:

- The opening ceremony;
- The experts' technical session;
- Plenary sessions of the various blocks;
- High-level keynote presentations;
- Forum of traditional chiefs;
- Panel of Ministers and heads of sub-regional organizations;
- Closed-door session of Ministers and sub-regional organizations;
- Round table of technical and financial partners;
- Formulation of resolutions and recommendations;
- Closing remarks

I. OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony was characterised by speeches from different personalities, notably:

- **Welcome speech by the CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Honorable Dr Christian RUCK.** In his speech, the Facilitator highlighted the major successes achieved since Ndjamen, such as the development of investment plans by the countries concerned, the revitalization of inter-sectoral collaboration between ministries on transhumance issues, the participation of the various actors in the transhumance chain, along with traditional chiefs, politicians, civil society and technical and financial partners, in discussions at national and regional levels, etc.
- **Speech by the COMIFAC Executive Secretary.** He began by thanking the President of the Republic of Cameroon, His Excellency PAUL BIYA. He then reiterated COMIFAC's interest in transborder transhumance, and expressed the hope that the meeting would proceed smoothly.
- **Special address by Dr. TABUNA Honore of ECCAS.** He pointed out that transhumance and pastoralism are not new phenomena. But security situations, climate change and other types of pressure require countries to take urgent action to resolve the problems posed by transhumance in order to promote sustainable economic development in the region.
- **Address by His Excellency Pr. Sanctus Niragira, Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Burundi, President-in-Office of COMIFAC.** He began by thanking the President of the Republic of Cameroon for his hospitality. He then recalled that implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration had been hampered by the COVID 19 pandemic. He reiterated COMIFAC's commitment to give greater consideration to the issue of transhumance in the sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity.

- **Speech by His Excellency Mr. Jochen FLASBARTH, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ, Germany.** Mr. Flasbarth underlined the importance of the conference, which is part of strategic reflections aimed at finding solutions that are appropriate, adapted and adaptable to the regional context. He ended his speech by reiterating Germany's willingness to support biodiversity conservation and consolidate peace.
- **Opening speech by His Excellency Dr. TAIGA, Minister of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries, representing the Minister of External Relations, Head of the Cameroon Delegation.** He recalled the particularity of the conference, which had a double purpose: to analyse the resolutions of the first conference in Ndjamená, and then to take measures and resolutions to overcome the various challenges of transborder transhumance in the first instance, and the passing on of the facilitation from the Federal Republic of Germany to the France-Gabon Facilitation.

The agenda was then adopted, and the works bureau set up as follows:

- **President :** Cameroon
- **1st Vice-President:** Niger
- **2nd Vice-President:** DRC
- **3rd Vice-President:** CAR
- **1st Rapporteur:** Chad
- **2nd Rapporteur:** South Sudan
- **3rd Rapporteur:** Nigeria
- **Technical secretariat in support of the meeting:** CEEAC, COMIFAC, OCFSA, IGAD, CCRS, CILSS, CEBEVIRHA, IUCN

II. ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE END OF THE MEETING

Numerous achievements have been made since the Ndjamená Declaration, notably:

- The preparation of multi-year country investment plans (PIP);
- The revitalization of inter-sectoral consultation frameworks in the various countries, notably in the PIP preparation process;
- The implementation of activities in the blocks and meetings organized by actors of the blocks with a view to exchanging perspectives on the topic;
- The mobilisation of key actors in the transhumance chain, traditional chiefs, civil society, sectorial ministries, technical partners and donors in transhumance initiatives at national and regional levels.
-

III. TECHNICAL SESSION

Technical Presentations

- **Expert presentations focused on the implementation of the N'Djaména Declaration - Results of studies, strategies and mapping** (Paul Scholte - Amy Pokempner, Florence Palla - Quentin J. Jungers, Cyprien Biaou, Tímea Szarkova).
- **PIP analysis and strategic thinking on the transhumance-biodiversity nexus.**
- The technical presentations by the various experts covered the following aspects: Neo-pastoralism; Increasing livestock size; Economic issues; Biodiversity conservation; Sovereignty issues; Transborder collaboration/agreements; Legal framework vs uses and customs; Peace and Security
- At the end of these technical presentations, it is clear that pastoral activity has potential: it is a way of life, a culture, a history, and constitutes economic capital for transhumant communities. When carried out at large scale, it poses both territorial and ecological challenges, requiring multidimensional solutions on a landscape and regional scale. Seven themes emerged from these sessions, which were the subject of strategic-political exchanges on agreements relating to transhumance, financing transhumance, neo-pastoralism, education, traditional chiefs' forums, spatial observation of the determinants of transhumance and institutional support.

IV. POLITICAL MEETING

H.E. Mr François-Xavier De Donnea, Minister of State of the Kingdom of Belgium, presented a summary of testimonies on the stakes of the Ndjamena Conference.

V. TRADITIONAL CHIEFS' FORUM

The traditional chiefs' forum explored the framework of customs and traditions linked to transhumance and biodiversity conservation. It highlighted cultural and traditional requirements, and the role of traditional and religious leaders in the peaceful management of transhumance. The main recommendation is to encourage collaboration between traditional chiefs, so that they can play an active role in promoting peaceful and harmonious transhumance.

VI. CLOSED-DOOR MEETING OF MINISTERS

Behind closed doors, the Ministers examined the priority points arising from the experts' meeting. At the end of the deliberations and fruitful exchanges, findings and recommendations were formulated. These comprise: transborder agreements on transhumance, setting up a mechanism to finance transhumance, neo-pastoralism, education of transhumant herders, institutionalization of transborder forums for traditional chiefs on transhumance, an observatory to monitor the spatial determinants of transhumance, and institutional support for PIP implementation.

With regard to the experts' report, the ministers expressed their satisfaction with the quality of the document. They also took note of the experts' report and approved the PIPs.

At the end of the closed-door session, the Ministers made a number of recommendations, which are set out in an attached document.

VII. PTF COMMITMENTS

The college of donors convened in a closed door meeting and congratulated the experts and the countries on the quality of the PIPs for the 3 blocks, which they found realistic and corresponding to real financing possibilities. Financial support for the PIPs will be based on the principles of economic and environmental sustainability and social equity.

VIII. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the meeting, the participants formulated recommendations to serve as a roadmap for implementing the Declaration:

To countries

- Implement multi-year PIPs;
- Sign/revive transborder agreements;
- Set up management platforms for transborder agreement;
- Set up platforms at different levels to prevent, manage and monitor transborder conflicts linked to transhumance;
- Set up appropriate national policy and legal frameworks for the management of transhumance dynamics;
- Carry out country-level studies to assess the impact of transhumance on security, biodiversity, well-being and the risk of zoonotic disease emergence for the blocks covered by the N'Djamena declaration;
- Set up an identification, warning and information-sharing system at all entry and exit points along transhumance corridors;
- Develop socio-economic infrastructures in transhumance areas for better transhumance management;
- Develop an education system adapted to transhumant herders and other pastoral groups.
- Set up a system to control the circulation of small arms, weapons of war and drugs between countries;
- Involve Civil Society Organisations in the implementation of PIPs.
- Establish and operationalise bi-national and tri-national transborder anti-poaching brigades, including talks between the States concerned.

To technical/financial partners :

- Leaders, co-leaders, technical and strategic partners to provide support in mobilizing financial resources and implementing PIPs;
- Technical support for countries in the use of appropriate tools for monitoring and managing transhumance (mapping, GIS, MEOR, etc.).

To the CBFP

- Support for the mobilization of funds for the implementation of PIPs;
- Continued lobbying of ECCAS for endorsement of the N'Djamena Declaration by the Heads of State

To sub-regional institutions COMIFAC/ECCAS/CCRS/CILS/IGAD/ CEBEVIRHA/CBLT/OFAC

- Advocate and mobilize resources to finance investment plans at block level;
- Carry out an extended study to set up a sustainable financing mechanism for transhumance.

IX. HANDOVER OF THE FACILITATION

The Facilitation was handed over from the German Facilitation to the new France-Gabon Facilitation. The ceremony took place in the presence of conference participants and officials. It was marked by the presentation of gifts to the former Facilitation.

X. CONCLUSION

All country delegations taking part in the conference approved the products resulting from the work during the conference. The participants lauded the efforts made by each country and the strategic partners, and urged them to continue to support the implementation of the recommendations arising from this conference. They expressed their gratitude to the strategic partners who had made the event possible. They expressed their gratitude to the German government's Facilitation for its multifaceted support in implementing the Ndjamen Declaration and urged it to continue.

Likewise, the ministers took note of the experts' report, approved the Country Investment Plans, and made recommendations on the nexus: transhumance, protected areas and natural resources, development, peace and security.

All participants and organizers of the Cecond International Conference of Ministers on Transboundary Transhumance, on the Nexus: transhumance, protected areas and natural resources, development, peace and security, thank the Government of the Republic of Cameroon through its illustrious President, His Excellency PAUL BIYA, Head of State of Cameroon, for the warm welcome and his legendary hospitality.

Yaounde, July 12, 2023

The participants