



Congo Basin Forest Partnership
Facilitation by the Federal Republic of Germany (2020-2022)

CBFP celebrates its 20th anniversary and holds its 19th Meeting of the Parties (MOP)

5-8 July 2022, Libreville, Gabon

Side Event

**High-Level Roundtable on an inclusive partnership with
the European Union to combat deforestation and promote
sustainable development in the Congo Basin**

Date: Wednesday 6 July 2022 at 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Place: Tent 1, Radisson Blu Okoumé Palace Hotel à Libreville, Gabon

Introduction

By adopting a draft regulation on deforestation-free products in November 2019, the European Union (EU) is ushering in an important shift in its response to the pressing global challenge of deforestation. The regulation marks the commitment of EU Member States to ‘green’ their commodity supply chains for products imported into Europe which will apply to beef, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, soy, timber, and timber products.

The EU’s efforts to halt imported deforestation are to be welcomed. The drivers of deforestation are complex, and the multifaceted solutions require the collaboration of all stakeholders including governments, the private sector, civil society, and forest communities.

The EU is a major economic and political partner of the Congo Basin riparian countries. While the draft regulation is being debated in the EU legislative bodies, it is important that all stakeholders in the Congo Basin understand the possible consequences on the ongoing commitments and efforts in the subregion. These include the convergence plan of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), legal reforms for the protection, sustainable and inclusive management of forest resources and land use planning, the Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) programme and the African Palm Oil Initiative (APOI), among others.

To enable an inclusive dialogue on the issues at stake in the draft European regulation and to reflect on the cooperation required for its implementation, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), in collaboration with Fern and CAFI, is organising a high-level multi-stakeholder roundtable on 6 July 2022 in Libreville, Gabon, as part of the 19th Annual Meeting of the Parties of the Partnership.

Objectives of the roundtable

- 1** Understand the requirements of the draft European regulation on deforestation-free products and their impact on the political and environmental strategies and commitments of the countries bordering the Congo Basin.
- 2** Promote a dialogue on understanding the concept of ‘zero deforestation’.
- 3** Identify possible solutions and approaches for an inclusive and beneficial partnership between the countries of the subregion and the EU in the fight against deforestation.
- 4** Address the role and needs of Indigenous peoples and local communities as well as small-scale producers in policies to combat deforestation.

Programme

Moderator: Berta Pesti, Head of CAFI Secretariat

13.00-13.45

Keynote speeches

5 minutes only per intervention

- » Intervention by the CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany, **Honorable Dr Christian Ruck**
- » Intervention by the European Commission, **Diego Torres**, International Relations Officer, Directorate General for the Environment
- » Intervention by the Representative of the French Republic, **Philippe Lacoste**, Director of Sustainable Development, France
- » Interventions from the European Parliament: **MEPs Anna Cavazzini** and **Michèle Rivasi**
- » Speech by **Christoph Hoffmann MdB**, Chairman of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development of the German Federal Parliament
- » Interventions by the Centre for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) and Fern: **Chloé Tankam**, Economist of Sustainable Value Chains and **Marie-Ange Kalenga**, Forest Policy Advisor

Q&A

13.45-14.15

High-level panel

National government representatives:

- » **Jules Doret Ndongo**, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon, current President of COMIFAC
- » **Rosalie Matondo**, Minister of Forest Economy, Republic of Congo
- » **Lee White**, Minister of Water, Forests, Sea and Environment, in charge of the Climate Plan, Sustainable Development Goals and Land Use Plan, Republic of Gabon
- » Representative of the Indonesian government (to be confirmed)

Q&A

14.15-14.45

Non-state actor panel

5 minutes only per intervention

Civil society and Indigenous peoples and local communities in the Congo Basin:

- » **Maixent Agnimbat**, Member of the African Community Rights Network (ACRN)
- » **Parfait Dihoukamba**, Member of the Network of Indigenous and Local Peoples for the Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPALEAC)

Private sector:

- » **Benoît Jobbé-Duval**, Director, International Tropical Timber Technical Association (ATIBT)
- » **Erith Ngatchou**, Regional Representative, Earthworm
- » **Sandra Razanamandranto**, Market and Development Manager, Preferred by Nature

14.45-15.00

Q&A and general discussion

Zoom link for online participation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82893904402>