



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

**The CBFP celebrates its 20th anniversary and holds its 19th Meeting of Parties (MoP)
July 5 – 8, 2022, in Libreville, Gabonese Republic**

High Level Political Dialogue: Regional and Donor College

July 7, 2022

10:00 - 14:30, Libreville, Gabonese Republic

Arrival and installation from 9h30min

Continuing 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 “COP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement”: A Fair Deal towards sustainable development for Central African countries, its people, forests and biodiversity

High-Level representatives of the Glasgow Statement signatories/CBFP Donor College Members in dialogue with the central African ministers of the ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States) / COMIFAC (Central African Forest Commission) space.

CO-CONVENORS:

- CBFP, COMIFAC, CEEAC, Germany and the United Kingdom

CO-PRESIDENTS:

- **His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret NDONGO**, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroun, acting President of COMIFAC
- **The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park**, Minister for Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), President of CoP26

HOSTS:

- **His Excellency Prof. Lee White**, Minister of Waters, Forest, the Sea and Environment, charged with Climate Change and Land-use Planning, Gabon
- **Honorable Dr. Christian Ruck**, Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany of the CBFP, Goodwill ambassador of the Declaration of COMIFAC member states
- **His Excellency Mr. Jochen Flasbarth**, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

CONTEXT:

The protection, sustainable management and restoration of forests are an essential element of a viable path to achieving the international community's 1.5-degree climate target. Absorbing about 1.1 billion tCO₂ per year into the atmosphere, or about 4% of global emissions each year, central Africa remains one of the only regions in the world that absorbs more carbon than it emits (Net Flux of 610 million tCo₂) with a carbon sequestering capacity of about 60 billion tCo₂, including 30 billion tCo₂ in its peatlands. Thus, actions to support the protection of this first lung of the world in terms of carbon balance, of its peatlands and biodiversity, are an essential part of any effort to limit global warming.

It is in this context that the *Declaration of Commitment by COMIFAC Member States* and the *CoP29 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement* adopted on the margin of COP 26 in Glasgow have been signed. The COMIFAC Declaration highlights the commitments of central African countries to the fight against climate change, good governance, landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation and sustainable management. On the other hand, their expectations and their call to the international community for equitable financing based on the principle of a **Fair Deal** was presented in Berlin on September 7, 2021 at the Tropical Forest Symposium organized by the Federal Republic of Germany in collaboration with the CBFP Facilitation.

The COMIFAC Declaration is a common expression of all COMIFAC member countries and has resulted from a participatory consultation process with contributions from the various CBFP colleges, namely the scientific community, the private sector, civil society, international non-governmental organizations, donors and multilateral organizations. In addition, the COMIFAC Declaration on the **Fair Deal** served as the basis for *CoP 26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement*. It was re-launched at the World Leaders' Summit (WLS) on Action on Forest and Land Use (FLU) at COP 26 and celebrated during a high-level panel discussion in the COMIFAC Pavilion on November 6, 2021.

The *CoP 26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement* includes a financial commitment of **US\$1.5 billion for the next 5 years (2021-2025)**. This financial commitment and the *Fair Deal* will be central points of discussion during the high-level political dialogue.

Another announcement of **US\$1.7 billion** was made at CoP 26 by donors in support of indigenous peoples and local communities around the world, many of whom live in the forest ecosystems of central Africa.

To this end, the Libreville political dialogue aims at the following objectives:

- 1) Obtain further detail on the Glasgow financial commitments for COMIFAC members (USD 1.5 billion) and on the modalities of access; and exchange on financial mechanisms that would facilitate better coordination of financing, contributions and interventions in central Africa.
- 2) Discuss the elements in favor of a **Fair Deal** - a new agreement on climate and biodiversity that secures an adequate share of the financing and political commitment to the ecosystems of central Africa permanently and in the long-term, and which reflects their value in terms of biodiversity and their carbon sink function (basis for financing the development of the countries of central Africa).

The dialogue initiated at this event will serve as catalyst for longer-term dialogue and partnerships, as well as for increased ambition on the part of donor countries and forest countries in central Africa.

The high-level event will also be an opportunity to present the efforts of COMIFAC countries in the field of conservation, sustainable management, and their contribution to the fight against climate change. This event will bring together ministers and senior officials from ECCAS/COMIFAC member countries, as well as ministers and senior officials from CBFP/Glasgow donor countries.

During the discussions, the participants could reflect on the following topics of discussion (non-exhaustive) among others:

- Clarity on Glasgow's financial commitments for the protection of central African forests
- Definition of the modalities of access to finance by mutual agreement
- Improved framework conditions to attract more private investment in sustainable development and protection of central Africa's forests
- Priorities of central African countries for the coming years to improve the protection and sustainable management of forests
- Use of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities for sustainable forest management and strengthening of their participation in forest governance
- Key elements and pre-conditions for a long-term ***Fair Deal***:
 - Options for creating better coordination and division of responsibilities of technical and financial contributions from partners
 - Improved effectiveness and efficiency of interventions for the best long-term protection of the second lung

PARTICIPANTS:

- **Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC)**
- **Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)**
- **Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Environment, Angola**
- **Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Burundi**
- **Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Nature Protection, Cameroon**
- **Ministry of Forestry and Fauna, Chairmanship in office of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), Cameroon**
- **Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, Central African Republic**
- **Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Central African Republic**

- **Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, Chad**
- **Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and the Congo Basin, Congo**
- **Ministry of Forest Economy, Chair-in-Office of the Organization for the Conservation of Wildlife in Africa (OCFSA), Congo**
- **Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of Congo**
- **Ministry of Water, Forestry, the Sea and Environment, Gabon**
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Environment, Equatorial Guinea**
- **Ministry of Environment, Rwanda**
- **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany**
- **Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom**
- **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), United Kingdom**
- **Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium**
- **Global Affairs, Canada**
- **Embassy of Spain to the Gabonese Republic, Spain**
- **European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Union**
- **Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France**
- **Ministry of Environment, Japan**
- **Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands**
- **Ministry of Climate and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden**
- **Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea**
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Republic of Korea**
- **U.S. Department of State, United States of America**
- **Bezos Earth Fund**

Moderation:

- **His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret NDONGO**, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroun, acting President of COMIFAC
- **The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park**, Minister for Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), President of CoP26

PROGRAM:

1. Welcome and introductory presentations - 30 min

This section will include the following welcome and introductory speeches:

Each speaker will have 5 minutes strictly.

- Speech by Co-President **His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret NDONGO**, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon, acting President of the Central African Forestry Commission (COMIFAC)
- Speech by Co-Chair **Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park**, Minister for the Pacific and Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), United Kingdom
- Address by **His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Gilberto Da Piedade Vérissimo**, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Testimony of the participation of technical and financial partners in the consultative process that led to the *Fair Deal*, the *Declaration of commitment by COMIFAC member states to the forests of Central Africa and call for equitable financing and FairShare* and the Glasgow CoP 26 Declaration of the Congo Basin financial partners, the **Honorable Dr. Christian Ruck**, Goodwill Ambassador and CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Message from the indigenous peoples and local community of the Congo Basin on the "Glasgow Pledge", **Mr. Joseph Itongwa**, Regional Coordinator of REPALEAC
- Briefing - Thematic Streams, **Mr. Maxime Nzita Nganga Di Mavambu**, Head of Mission Regional Technical Assistance ECOFAC VI, Former CBFP CO-Facilitator

2. High-Level Panel – 160 min

This Second part will bring together the relevant ministers of the COMIFAC-ECCAS countries and donor countries in a political dialogue.

Timeline:

- **80 min** for declarations of donor countries and declarations of ministers of forests and / or environment of COMIFAC member countries:
- **80 min** of structured Discussions.

3. Conclusions and Closing remarks of the Co-Chairs – 15 min

- **His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret NDONGO**, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon, acting President of the Central African Forestry Commission (COMIFAC)
- **The Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park**, Minister for the Pacific and Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) – President of CoP 26

4. Working lunch of Donors and the COMIFAC/ECCAS ministers

End of Session at 14 :30