



International Conference on Security, Poaching, Transhumance Management and the
Movement of Armed Groups between the Sahel and Equatorial Africa

Experts' Meeting to Follow up on the N'Djamena Conference

16-17 December 2019

Douala, Republic of Cameroon

**Final Communiqué of the Experts' Meeting to Follow up on the N'Djamena
Conference**

on

**The Sahel-Congo Basin Roadmap on the Operational Implementation of the
N'Djamena Declaration**

Synthesis

Douala, Cameroon, 16 - 17 May 2019

- 1 The Kingdom of Belgium Facilitation of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), in close collaboration with the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, hosted from 16 to 17 December 2019 in Douala, Cameroon, the Experts' Meeting for the follow up of the International conference on Security, Poaching, Transhumance Management and the Movements of Armed Groups between the Sahel and Equatorial Africa.
- 2 This meeting aimed to make progress in the concrete implementation of the recommendations of the N'Djamena international conference of ministers, through the adoption of a logical framework based on five strategic axes relating respectively to (1) bilateral and/or multilateral legal agreements, (2) protected areas management systems, (3) regulation of transhumance and (4) anti-poaching measures, (5) communication strategies relating to protected areas at regional level. The methodological approach adopted consisted in dividing the experts into three geographical blocks in order to facilitate the identification of specific problems and the actions to be taken to address them at the local, national, transboundary and regional levels;
- 3 The experts will also propose a strategy aimed at establishing a regional monitoring and political steering mechanism for actions dealing with security/protected areas/pastoralism interactions.
- 4 It is organized with the financial and technical support of the Kingdom of Belgium Facilitation Consortium of the CBFP, namely: the German Ministry of Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the European Union (DEVCO), and Belgium;
- 5 Placed under the supervision/Presidency of His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret Ndongo, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon, current COMIFAC Chairperson, this meeting brought together representatives of the following concerned countries: Cameroon, Niger, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Southern Sudan and Chad. Also attending

were the following regional organizations: ECCAS, COMIFAC, OCFSA, IGAD, CBHVIRA, GABAC and technical and financial partners dedicated to wildlife conservation and anti-poaching issues, as well as Civil Society Organizations.

- 6 The deliberations of the meeting of experts were structured around the following points:
 - ➔ The opening ceremony
 - ➔ The technical session of Experts
 - ➔ Resolutions and recommendations
 - ➔ The conclusion

1- The Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was punctuated by four speeches by the following personalities:

- The welcome address of Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), **H.E. François-Xavier de Donnea**, Minister of State of the Kingdom of Belgium
- A word from the Minister of Water and Forestry, Hunting and Fisheries of the Central African Republic, **His Excellency Amit IDRIS**
- Speech by the ECCAS Deputy Secretary General, **Her Excellency Mrs MFOULA Marie Thérèse Chantal**
- Opening speech of **His Excellency Mr Jules Doret Ndongo**, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon, COMIFAC Serving Chairperson.

This was followed by the presentation and adoption of the agenda of the meeting by all the participants after amendments.

This session continued with the setting up of the workshop bureau, which is composed as follows:

- Chairperson: Mr **NYONGWEN Joseph**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon;

- 1st Vice-president: Mr **ABDRAMANE CHAIBO HAMID**, Director of Conservation, Wildlife and Protected Areas of Chad;
- 2nd Vice-president **Mr MAMAN Ibrahim**, Technical Advisor to the Minister of Environment of Niger;
- Rapporteurs:
 - ✓ **Major General AGURU MAMBA Maurice**, Commander of the Corps in charge of the Security of National Parks and Related Natural Reserves of the DRC;
 - ✓ **Mr ZACKARIA TABAN**, Park Warden, Lantoto National Park, South Sudan
 - ✓ Mr MUBANGO Emmanuel, Director of Legal Affairs and Communication.

The Technical Secretariat was held by the CBFP Facilitation, ECCAS, COMIFAC, OCFSA, IGAD, GABAC and IUCN.

This session ended with a family photograph.

2- THE TECHNICAL SESSION OF EXPERTS

This technical session began with keynote presentations aimed at providing an overview at regional level (presented respectively by UNESCO, WCS and IGAD) and at national level (presented respectively by experts from Cameroon, Niger, CAR, DRC, Sudan, Chad, ECCAS and IGAD).

OFAC then presented a map of the three geographical blocks, as well as aspects relating to data monitoring. Finally, each leader presented an inventory of their block (GIZ for the West block, WCS for the Central block and APN for the East block). At the end of these presentations, three working groups following the geographical blocks were set up to make amendments to the logical framework.

3. SHORT-TERM OPERATIONAL ACTIONS

3.1. Political and Technical Resolutions

The deliberations of the experts led to two main lines of work: the political axis calling for the Summit of Heads of State, and the technical operational framework at the level of block countries and cross-cutting axes

The experts who participated in the follow-up meeting to the N'Djamena Conference:

- Recognize that livestock production is essential for safeguarding the income and well-being of people living in arid and semi-arid zones and can be a vehicle for social cohesion between communities and for economic development;
- Recognize the urgent need to act to stem the influx of transhumant cattle into the new areas of Equatorial Africa;
- Call for a summit of the Heads of State of the countries concerned in order to take appropriate and sustainable measures to control transhumance, in particular through the need to regulate herd sizes (flocks) taking into account the carrying capacity of the host countries and making transhumance sustainable from an environmental, economic and social perspective;
- Call for the urgent establishment of mechanisms for the integrated implementation of cross-cutting strategies in the Sahel sub-region and Equatorial Africa on regional transhumance and the fight against environmental crime, including the illegal wildlife trade chain, unauthorized gold washing, trafficking in small arms and light weapons and other illicit activities;
- Recognize that a significant number of initiatives addressing the issues identified during the work of the groups are already partially or fully funded by international donors and require harmonization between parties.

Recommendations

The Experts' meeting to follow up the N'Djamena conference recommends:

To Regional Institutions

- To rely on the existing legal frameworks specific to transhumance, such as the CEBEVIRHA Legal Framework, the joint commissions, the standing committees for the management of transboundary transhumance and to set up advocacy for the consideration of the integrity of protected areas;
- To promote sub-regional cooperation (ECCAS/CEMAC zones) in the framework of eco-security and criminality and to ensure that Sudan, South Sudan, Niger and Nigeria are involved;
- To initiate a collaboration protocol between ECCAS/COMIFAC on the Transhumance issue, notably through joint cooperation between IGAD and ECOWAS;
- To re-establish the issuing of CEBEVIRHA passports to transhumants in order to clarify the transhumant status on the one hand, but also to identify and register them on the other hand, with the involvement of Sudan;
- Based on OFAC expertise, to strengthen the observation and monitoring mechanism of transhumance and the process of collecting informational data in the COMIFAC area and in neighbouring countries concerned by the transhumance issue and to develop synergies with IGAD, CILS and/or AGRYMET;

To States:

- Through their various Ministries and administrations concerned, to ensure the integration and effective collaboration between the security services (military, police, justice and other agents) for the exchange of information with formal intelligence networks;
- To conclude bilateral/multilateral cross-border cooperation protocols where they are lacking and to ensure their effective implementation where they exist ;

- To develop national anti-poaching strategies;
- To identify existing platforms for collaboration on cross-border anti-poaching measures with a view to creating synergies and promoting data sharing for cross-border intelligence and alerts;
- To strongly involve local civil society actors and riparian communities (PACs) in the development and implementation of sustainable and integrated transhumance management strategies and integrate traditional knowledge;
- To integrate traditional knowledge and local governance structures with the support of local civil society in order to improve ownership of conservation issues and security of protected areas.

To the CBFP Facilitation:

- To set up a Taskforce for the follow-up of the Ndjamena Declaration and the mechanisms for its implementation discussed in Douala, in particular the political and institutional backing.

To Technical and Financial Partners:

- To identify funding tools for Logical Framework activities not covered by ongoing projects, e.g. through the ECOFAC 6 programme or the new EU PAIRAC or "Landscape" programmes;
- To provide support to strengthen inter-state collaboration in the exchange of information on cross-border wildlife crime and other illegal activities, capacity building for its implementation and dissemination;
- To provide support for the popularization of the IIED/IUCN platform "People not Poaching" to better share experiences and solutions for the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in the fight against wildlife crime.

Closing

The N'Djamena follow-up experts meeting: thanks the authorities of the Republic of Cameroon for their hospitality and for having made it possible to hold its meeting in Douala and expresses its gratitude to the financial partners of the Facilitation Consortium of the Kingdom of Belgium of the CBFP, namely France, Germany and the Kingdom of Belgium for their multifaceted support and urges them to continue to support the implementation of the Douala recommendations.

Done in Douala, on 17 December 2019

The participants