



UN Climate Change Conference COP26 summit

COMIFAC - Congo Basin Initiatives Pavilion Blue Zone, HALL 4, High Level Event

Thursday, November 4th, 2021 at 4.30-6.00 pm

Accelerating the “Fair Deal”: Implementation of the COMIFAC Declaration and COP26 Joint Donor Statement on the Congo Basin

High-level representatives of Donor countries in dialogue with Ministers from Central African countries

The UK Presidency’s strategic vision for a high ambition outcome at COP26 is framed within four main goals: Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance and Collaboration. Action on nature – and in particular forests – is a critical element of all four of these goals. There is no viable pathway to keeping 1.5 degrees in reach that does not involve the protection, sustainable management, and restoration of forests.

Action to support the protection of the Congo Basin, with its rainforests, peatlands and other ecosystems, is critical to these efforts. Absorbing around 1.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, or 4% of the world’s emissions every year, Central Africa remains one of the only regions left in the world that absorbs more carbon than they emit. In addition, these forests play an important role in biodiversity conservation and millions depend on the free services these forests provide.

This high-level event will make the case for a new "climate/biodiversity Fair deal", advocating for a fair share of climate/biodiversity funding and political commitment directed towards the Congo Basin ecosystems equal to their global value in terms of biodiversity and as a carbon sink. The dialogue initiated at this roundtable will serve to catalyse longer-term dialogue and partnerships across the region, and scaled-up ambition on both the part of the donor community and Central Africa’s forested countries.

CO-CONVENORS

- COMIFAC, ECCAS, CBFP, CAFI, UK

CO-CHAIRS

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

THEME

This high-level event aims to drive action on, and acceleration the implementation of the COMIFAC Declaration on the Forests of the Congo Basin, which highlights the Central Africa countries' commitments to the sustainable and good governance of Central Africa's forest resources on the one hand, and their expectations and call on the international community for equitable financing and a Fair Share known as "Fair Deal" principle presented in Berlin on 7 September 2021 at the Symposium on



Tropical Forests organized by the Federal Republic of Germany and the CBFP Facilitation. This Declaration is the common expression of all COMIFAC member countries and a strong signal to the international community of their ambition to increase and enhance the political influence of the Congo Basin countries in international negotiations.

The COMIFAC Declaration on the "Fair Deal" will serve as a basis for the UK-convened "COP26 Joint Donor Statement on Supporting the protection and sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests" to be launched during the COP26 World Leaders Summit (WLS) Forest and Land Use (FLU) event. This landmark announcement is intended as a clarion call from a small group of donors who recognise the historical underfunding of the Congo Basin. It is a starting point for increased engagement and support, and aims to direct greater investment and political attention towards protecting the Congo Basin forests in the coming years.

Both declarations shall be celebrated by the panelists of this high-level event solutions that support the idea of the Fair Deal: "Protection and sustainable use of Congo Basin forests in exchange for an adequate share of international climate and biodiversity funds".

The high-level event will also be an opportunity to showcase the COMIFAC countries' efforts in the field of conservation, sustainable management, and their contribution to the fight against climate change. This side event will bring together the ministers of ECCAS/COMIFAC member countries, and/or senior officials and Ministers and/or seniors officials of CBFP Donor countries.

Moderation: Mr Chouaibou Nchoutpouen, Deputy Executive Secretary-Technical Coordinator of COMIFAC

ATTENDEES

- **Dr Gerd Müller**, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ, Germany
- **Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park**, Minister for Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), UK
- **His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret NDONGO**, Minister of Forests and Wildlife, Cameroon, Current President of COMIFAC Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)
- **Mr. Ulrik Lenaerts**, UNFCCC Lead Negotiator, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium
- **Mr. Philippe Lacoste**, Director of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, France
- **Mr. Andreas Dahl-Jørgensen**, Director of the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), Norway
- **Mr John Kerry**, Presidential Special Envoy on Climate, Department of State, USA
- **His Excellency Dr Deo Guide Rurema**, Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Burundi
- **His Excellency Mr. Thierry Kamach**, Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Central African Republic.
- **Her Excellency Ms. Eve Bazaiba**, Vice-Prime Minister of the Environment, Democratic Republic of Congo
- **His Excellency Dr Lee White**, Minister of Water, Forests, Seas and Environment, Gabon
- **Her Excellency Ms. Rosalie Matondo**, Minister of Forest Economy, Republic of Congo

PROGRAMME

The High-Level Event will unfold in three parts: an Introduction/Opening Ceremony, a Technical Segment and High-Level Political Panels.



Moderation: TBC

1. Welcome and Introductory presentations – 15 min

This part will include the following welcome addresses and opening remarks:

- Opening remarks by **Dr Gerd Müller**, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ, Germany
- Opening remarks by **Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park**, Minister for Pacific and the Environment at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Opening remarks by **His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret NDONGO**, Minister of Forests and Wildlife from Cameroon, Current President of COMIFAC Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)

2. Technical Segment – 5 min

- Presentation of the Declaration of commitment by COMIFAC member states to the forests of Central Africa and call for equitable financing and Fair Share:
 - **Mr Chouaibou Nchoutpouen**, Deputy Executive Secretary-Technical Coordinator of COMIFAC, and
 - **His Excellency Honorable Dr Christian Ruck**, Ambassador of Good will and CBFP Federal Republic of Germany Facilitator

3. High Level Panel – 60 min

This third part will bring together political dialogue between relevant ministers of both COMIFAC-ECCAS countries and donor countries, including France, EU, Norway, UK, and the USA.

Participants will be invited reflect on the following discussion prompts:

- The different roles that the international community can play in supporting the ambitions of Central Africa's forested nations as donors, consumer markets, and using both political and financial levers.
- The different roles that Central African countries can play to attract greater forest finance, and how they envision leadership roles in the protection and sustainable management of their rainforests and natural resources, mainstreaming the issues of forest and biodiversity conservation across all sectors while ensuring that the livelihoods of local communities are preserved.
- How the COP26 Congo Basin joint donor announcement be can used to catalyse greater finance and improve the funding enabling environment, including from the private sector, and how effective spend of this investment can be insured.
- Ensuring that we learn from, and strengthen involvement of, indigenous people and local communities in forest governance.

Choreography:

- 30 min statements by Donors: Belgium, France, Norway, UK, and USA,
- 30 min statements by ECCAS/COMIFAC ministers: Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, DRC, Gabon, and RoC.

4. Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations of the High-Level Event – 5 min



By Moderators

KEY FACTS

Date: Thursday, November 4th, 2021

Time: 4:30 pm - 6 pm GMT (-1 CET)

Location: COMIFAC Congo Basin Initiatives Pavillon, Hall

Interpretation: Simultaneous English-French

Livestreaming: Yes

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INFORMATION DESK

The central Africa, Congo Basin Delegation will be present with brochures, leaflets, posters, or banners showcasing the Congo Basin Region. Two scientific reports on the theme will be presented: [State of Central Africa's Protected Areas 2020](#) (Biodiversity) and [International financial flows to support nature protection and sustainable forest management in Central Africa](#). Furthermore, the [CBFP Study Package](#) will provide valuable and urgently needed insights into some of the most pressing issues in central African forest policy. These reports and studies also highlight opportunities and solutions for the future of the beautiful tropical forests of the Congo Basin, which are of immense value to all of humanity. The OFAC Database: [Partner and Donor Mapping: State of Investments](#) will also be highlighted.