

Event Title: SWM Programme Legal Hub: A tool for analyzing the Legal Framework governing value chains in particular on wild meat

The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme presented its innovative [Legal Hub](#) at the recent 20th Meeting of Parties (MoP20) of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. This event was held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), from 3 to 5 June, 2024.

A specific side-event titled "A Tool to Connect Different Sources of Law" showcased the Legal Hub's critical role in enhancing the legal frameworks governing wildlife management across multiple countries, including the sub-region.

The discussions emphasized the significance of robust legal structures for sustainable wildlife management in Central Africa and highlighted the necessary reforms within the region's legal and institutional frameworks.

Presentations were given by:

- Eugenio Sartoretto, FAO Legal Officer, who demonstrated the Legal Hub tool.
- Omer Ntougou, Director General of the National Parks Agency in Gabon.
- Benjamin Toirambe Bamoninga, Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in DRC.
- Chouaibou Nchoutpouen, Executive Secretary of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC).
- Filippo Saracco, from the EU Delegation in DRC, representing the SWM Programme's main donor.

The event attracted over 60 participants. High-level officials on the panel discussed the role played by SWM Programme's Legal Hub in triggering and informing wildlife sector reforms in their countries. The COMIFAC Executive Secretary's intervention also highlighted the role that the Legal Hub could play in helping to harmonise the sub-region's policy and legal frameworks for wildlife management in line with the [COMIFAC's convergence plan](#).

Looking ahead, the SWM Programme will expand the Legal Hub to cover new countries. The platform will also be enriched with updated [legal diagnostic tools](#) designed to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of wildlife management laws, supporting a holistic One Health approach.

The success of the Legal Hub marks a significant step forward in the global effort to manage and protect wildlife sustainably.