

**Congo Basin Forest Partnership**  
**Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany of the CBFP (2020-2022)**  
**Ninth Meeting of the CBFP Governing Council**

**Chair of the CBFP Governing Council: Honourable Dr. Christian Ruck, CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany**

**Co-Chair of the CBFP Governing Council: His Excellency, Mr. Jules Doret Ndongo, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon, current President of COMIFAC**

**1 - Summary of the work of the CBFP Governing Council of 16 July 2021 in Douala.**

The Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) in collaboration with the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and its current Chairmanship (MINFOF Cameroon), organised its 9th Governing Council meeting on 16 July 2021 in Douala. This meeting of the Council followed a meeting of Experts for the follow-up of the N'Djamena Conference on the elaboration of country investment plans focusing on Zoonoses, Transhumance, the Fight against Transboundary Poaching, Security and Sustainable Development between the Sahel and the Congo Basin, which was held from 12 to 15 July 2021 in the same venue. The representatives of the seven colleges of the CBFP actively participated, namely:

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- o CBFP Regional College: ECCAS, COMIFAC;
  - o CBFP Civil Society College: CEFDHAC-CPR and ROSCEVAC accompanied by representatives of the REFACOF and REFADD networks and RECEIAC;
  - o CBFP International NGO College: AWF, WCS;
  - o CBFP Private Sector College: ATIBT and Earthworm Foundations, Volcanoes Safaris;
  - o CBFP Donor College: USA, UK, Germany;
  - o CBFP Scientific and Academic College: CIFOR, IRET;
  - o College of CBFP multilaterals: FAO, UNESCO and GVTC, ITTO.

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The CBFP Governing Council Meeting was co-chaired by the Honourable Dr. Christian Ruck and by the current President of COMIFAC, His Excellency Jules Doret Ndongo, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon. It was organised with the financial support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the technical support of the German Technical Cooperation GIZ.

The programme of the ninth CBFP Council Meeting was structured around a first segment dedicated to the opening ceremony.

At the opening session of the 9th Governing Council, the CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Christian Ruck, recalled the following objectives: **i)** – have an overview of the state of implementation of the Facilitation's roadmap and the CBFP prospects, **ii)** present the report of the Experts Meeting for the follow-up of the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration (Transboundary transhumance), **iii)** – take time to exchange views on the organisation of the 19th Meeting of the CBFP Parties, which is expected to take place between March and May 2022 in Gabon or Congo, **iv)** – overview of the situation and specify the way forward concerning the Joint Declaration of the countries of the ECCAS/COMIFAC area for the forests of the Congo Basin and their periphery in preparation for the major international meetings to come, and **v)** - follow the presentation of the activity reports of the various CBFP Colleges.

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Commissioner Tabuna, in his speech on behalf of the President of the ECCAS Commission, recalled all the support that ECCAS provides to its specialised organization COMIFAC in the field of forest management and natural resource conservation. He emphasised that the first results of the restructured ECCAS Commission would be presented to the ECCAS Heads of State on 23 July 2021. He also announced that a workshop would be held in Brazzaville to adopt a common definition of various key terms such as "forest" and "deforestation" in particular, as part of a strategic reflection on the forest economy and the role of forests in the sustainable development of territories.

In his opening speech, the current President of COMIFAC, H.E. Jules Doret NDONGO, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon, thanked the German Facilitation for all its efforts and renewed the commitment of COMIFAC member countries to the logic of sustainable management of forests and natural resources, but also to contribute to the reduction of climate change effects.

Facilitator Dr. Ruck then presented an overview of the many activities supported by the German Facilitation, with the emphasis on the preparation of the Joint Declaration of the ECCAS/COMIFAC countries for the forests of the Congo Basin and its periphery. The German Facilitation advocates that 5% of the budgets from climate funds should be allocated to sustainable forest management. be allocated to the sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests. He announced that Germany has already decided to increase its contribution to the CAFI fund. There is also talk of intensifying the dialogue with China to strengthen the sustainability of international trade in tropical timber and Asian investments in sustainable management. The German facilitation focuses on the preparation of the upcoming international meetings in 2021 and 2022 such as the COP 26 for Climate, the COP 15 for Biodiversity, the World Conservation Congress and the World Forestry Congress. It invites COMIFAC member countries to the Tropical Forest Symposium on 7 and 8 September 2021 in Berlin for the presentation and signing of the Joint Declaration.

The presentation of the report of the Experts meeting for the follow-up of the N'Djamena Declaration on transhumance gave rise to a debate, particularly on the area of the countries concerned. It was agreed that in addition to the sub-regional organisations already involved (CILSS, CEBEVIRHA, IGAD; CCRS) in conducting and monitoring activities in the three blocks of countries, OCFSA can also be rapidly revitalised and strengthened to take an active part in this process because of its mandate which goes beyond the limits of COMIFAC.

With regard to the organisation of the 19th Meeting of the CBFP Parties, the Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany of the CBFP, Honourable Dr. Christian Ruck distributed a guidance document of the German CBFP Facilitation for the organisation of the CBFP MOP 19. In addition to the question of the venue of the MOP, we should also propose the objectives and the architecture of the MOP 19 programme. To this end, three major thematic axes/streams concerning the MOP 19 segment are proposed, namely Stream 1: Development - sustainable use (Sustainable Land Use), Stream 2: Conservation (including climate change, ecotourism, transhumance) and Stream 3: Landscape restoration (reforestation and restoration). He also announced many ideas and projects in order to catalyse exchanges and networking between partners... The policy segment will be structured around college meetings/college days, a Governing Council meeting and a plenary day.

In her statement, the representative of the United Kingdom, whose country will be hosting the next COP 26 in Glasgow, emphasised on the importance of having a short COMIFAC joint declaration to bring to the political level and to the general public. The COP 26 will focus on forestry issues in terms of political action, financing, sustainable production and marketing and the well-being of forest populations.

Concerning the Joint Declaration, as underlined by the Honourable Dr. Christian Ruck, the "long" version of the "Declaration of ECCAS/COMIFAC countries for the Congo Basin forests and their periphery" aligned with the revised ECCAS Treaty, the COMIFAC Convergence Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in Kinshasa in December 2020 and finalised after the integration of the comments of the CBFP colleges and the Ministers of the COMIFAC countries (following the

recommendation of the Ministers meeting in regional college in Kinshasa), will be shared to partners, following its distribution to members of the CBFP Governing Council. The Facilitator Honourable Dr. Christian Ruck welcomed Cameroon's commitment to work on the synthesis of a "short" version of the Declaration, which should reflect the content of the long version of the Declaration for the purpose of consistency and inclusiveness. He recalled that this exercise is in line with the English proposal in the context of the preparation of the COP 26 in Glasgow, England. Following the sharing of version of the Declaration to the countries by the Executive Secretariat, as was done during the Governing Council meeting, the CBFP Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany would Upon receipt forward to England, Germany and all CBFP Colleges.

The new COMIFAC Executive Secretariat team, which was officially installed at the beginning of June, announced the preparation of its new six-month work plan, the forthcoming political tour of its current President, and the acceleration of the preparation of the various international events by relying in particular on the Climate, Biodiversity and Forest Governance working groups.

The successive declarations of the representatives of the colleges each confirm their commitment to the CBFP Facilitation and welcome the finalisation of the text of the Joint Declaration and the commitment of Cameroon to propose a short version. The private sector insists on the need to work on the issues of regulatory legality and taxation in order to avoid the aggravation of market degradation, trade distortion and unacceptable competition. In particular, it was agreed that the definition of certification should be clarified, especially with regard to voluntary versus legality certification under the FLEGT VPAs. The college of multilateral organisations reiterates its support for the process of improving sustainable forest management. The international NGOs stress the importance of implementing the N'Djamena Declaration on peaceful and secure transhumance, the rights of local and indigenous communities in the ECCAS region, and the importance of the commitments that Central African states may make at COP 26. Civil society reiterates its support for the development of an inclusive dialogue, integrating rural populations in particular into the decision-making processes.

The President of COMIFAC stated that the COMIFAC countries accept private certification for companies and concessions that wish to do so, that it is a voluntary process, but the completion of the FLEGT VPA process remains a priority for the States.

**In summary, the CBFP Governing Council recommends:**

1 / concerning additions to the Experts' report on the follow-up of the N'Djamena Declaration and transhumance:

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- That ECCAS and ECOWAS collaborate on transhumance issues;
  - That ECCAS, COMIFAC and ECOWAS mandate OCFSA to work on the priorities of the N'Djamena Declaration;
  - That the CBFP facilitation and its members provide necessary supports to OCFSA so that the organisation is able to fulfil its mandate with regard to the N'DJAMENA Declaration.
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2 / regarding the Joint Declaration of COMIFAC countries, the "long" version of the "Declaration of the ECCAS/COMIFAC countries for the Congo Basin forests and their periphery" aligned with the revised ECCAS Treaty, the COMIFAC Convergence Plan, and the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in Kinshasa in December 2020 and finalised after the integration of the comments of the CBFP colleges and Ministers of the COMIFAC countries (following the recommendation of the Ministers gathered in regional college in Kinshasa), can be used as of the Berlin symposium early September, and a short version of the Declaration is being prepared for presentation in Glasgow in early November and during other international events.

3/ Concerning the short version of the Joint Declaration, the President of COMIFAC instructs the Executive Secretariat of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) to prepare and discuss a

proposal internally early in August, following the international political "canons" about the format of this type of text.

4/ Concerning the Meeting of the CBFP Parties, that it be organised between March and May 2022, taking into account the expected new date of the COP 15 on Biological Diversity, which has been postponed at China's request around April 2022. Three major thematic streams were proposed for the technical segment of the MOP, namely: Stream 1: Development - sustainable use (sustainable land use), Stream 2: Conservation (including climate change, ecotourism, transhumance) and Stream 3: Landscape restoration (reforestation and restoration).

## **2 - Opening speeches**

### **21 - ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE Dr. CHRISTIAN RUCK, FACILITATOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY OF THE CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP (CBFP)**

**Excellency Mr. Jules DORET, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of the Republic of Cameroon, Co-Chairman of the Governing Council of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, Mr. Representative of the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Governing Council of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership,**

After the 8th meeting of the Governing Council of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) held in December 2020 in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo, here we are, in accordance with the provisions of the CBFP Cooperation Framework relating to the functioning of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, gathered today for the 9th meeting, which is being held by videoconference because of the health crisis that we all know.

As the CBFP Facilitator for the Federal Republic of Germany and Chairman of the CBFP Governing Council, I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for accepting our invitation.

By agreeing to participate in this meeting, despite your various occupations, you have once again demonstrated your commitment to the sustainable management of the Congo Basin forest resources in general, and in particular to the effective fight against the degradation of natural resources, which has a wide range of consequences, including climate change, biodiversity loss, economic and food crises, etc.

### **Excellencies**

**Dear Members of the Governing Council,**

As you know, since the Declaration of the Heads of State of the Central African countries of March 1999 in Yaoundé relating to a political will to manage the natural resources of the ten Central African countries in a concerted manner, and the appeal of the United Nations General Assembly in Johannesburg on Sustainable Development through Resolution No. 54/214 to the International Community to provide support to the Central African countries for the implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration and the COMIFAC Convergence Plan,

Partners gathered within the CBFP are always present alongside the Congo Basin countries to provide them with different types of support for the sustainable management of the natural resources of this sub-region, the most important of which is the forest massif, the planet's second lung.

I would like to remind you that the CBFP, within the framework of its missions and in accordance with its principles, holds two meetings of the Management Board and one meeting of the Parties each year; but because of the COVID 19 pandemic, it was not possible to respect this principle and so the Meeting of the Parties should not take place this year. As was the case for the last meeting in Kinshasa, this 9th meeting will allow the inventory of technical, scientific, material and financial contributions that the CBFP's member partners have made to the countries of the Congo Basin in terms of development

actions in the forestry and environmental sector in general and for the well-being of local and indigenous populations.

During this meeting, it will therefore:

- To review the status of the implementation of the Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany roadmap and the perspectives of the CBFP,
- To present the report of the Experts' meeting held from 12 to 15 July here in Douala on the follow-up of the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration on transhumance, Zoonoses, transboundary poaching, insecurity and development,
- To discuss the organisation of the 19th Meeting of the CBFP Parties in 2022,
- To have an overview of the situation and map out the path concerning the Joint Declaration of the ECCAS/COMIFAC countries of the Congo Basin forests and their periphery in preparation for major international meetings,
- And the Governing Council will also have to follow the presentation of activity reports of the different CBFP Colleges.

Communications may also be made on other subjects concerning the major international events in which the Congo Basin countries are working to prepare for their participation, preparations in which the CBFP Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany is involved alongside COMIFAC in the actions undertaken to organise well and make the participation of the ECCAS/COMIFAC countries effective in all these events.

I would not like to end my speech without thanking the Government and the people of Cameroon for their hospitality, and in particular His Excellency Jules DORET NDONGO, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon for his support which enabled the city of Douala to host the Country Experts Meeting for the elaboration of the Country Investment Plans related to Zoonoses, Transhumance, Transboundary LAB, Security and Sustainable Development and this 9th CBFP Governing Council Meeting.

I would like to congratulate the entire organising team for the work they have done to ensure the success of this Governing Council meeting.

Finally, I wish every success to the work of the 9th Meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Governing Council.

**Long live ECCAS**

**Long live COMIFAC**

**Long live the Congo Basin Forest Partnership**

**Thank you for your attention.**

## **22 - ECCAS speech**

**Speech by H.E. Mr. Honoré TABUNA, Commissioner responsible for the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)**

**On the occasion of the opening of the 9th Meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Governing Council**

**Your Excellency the Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon, current Chairman of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC);**

**Your Excellencies, the Ministers responsible for Forests and the Environment of the Member States of ECCAS and of the European Union Member States of ECCAS and COMIFAC;**

**Mr. Executive Secretary of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC)**

**Mr. Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)**

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**Representatives of regional and international institutions**  
**Representatives of technical and financial partners**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen, Experts from COMIFAC Member States;**  
**Distinguished guests;**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen, in your respective ranks and titles;**

It is a real pleasure to address you on behalf of Ambassador Gilberto Da PIEDADE VERISSIMO, Chairman of ECCAS Commission, on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the 9th Meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Governing Council.

I would like to first of all thank His Excellency Jules Doret NDONGO, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon, current Chairman of COMIFAC, and the Honourable Christian RUCK, Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), for inviting the ECCAS Commission to take part in the work of this 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council.

- o I also welcome the presence of Ministers and Representatives of Ministers of our Member States who, despite their busy schedules, have agreed to take part in this meeting.
- o All the technical and financial partners, grouped within the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), receive thanks from ECCAS Commission for their multifaceted support for the management of natural resources of the Congo Basin forests for several years.
- o Your presence is highly appreciated alongside the Member States, ECCAS and its specialised institution, COMIFAC, at a time when the sub-region is continuing the process of implementing the provisions of the revised Treaty and subsequent texts in the various areas of regional integration, including the environment and rural development.

**Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

In December 2020, the eighth meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Governing Council was held in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Here we are today, seven months later, gathered by videoconference to take part in the ninth ordinary session of this important organisation of our Partnership.

The meetings of the Governing Council are of great importance for the Commission of the Community, because this Community provides a framework for effective consultation between partners and promotes the emergence of views on the main issues related to the protection and sustainable management of the Congo Basin's forest resources.

This is why the CBFP Partners' Cooperation Framework, adopted on 25 November 2016 by the 16<sup>th</sup> CBFP Partners' Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, prescribes to hold twice a year the Governing Council meeting.

This is therefore an opportunity to congratulate the Honourable Dr. Christian RUCK, CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany, for the efforts he has made to ensure that these meetings are held today by videoconference because of the threats of COVID-19 pandemic that are still raging on the planet.

**Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Remember that, during the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CBFP Governing Council in Kinshasa, I informed you of the ECCAS Commission's interest in the CBFP Facilitation Roadmap of the Federal Republic of Germany for the period of its mandate.

This roadmap has attracted the Community's positive attention in view of the overall objective that the German Facilitation has set for itself from 2020 to 2021, the type of partnership that it wishes to promote and the priority of intervention areas around which it is structured, including the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration on Eco-security.

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These intervention axes of the German CBFP Facilitation Roadmap are close to the axes of the Medium-Term Indicative Strategic Plan (MTISP) 2021-2025 of the Department of Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development (DERNADR) adopted on 27 November 2020 by the XVIII<sup>th</sup> Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Community.

As a reminder, the four axes of the 2021-2025 ITMAP of DERNADR are the following:

- (i) Sustainable management of water, land, extractive and forest resources;
- (ii) Environmental and biodiversity economics;
- (iii) Traditional skills and natural resource development
- (iv) Agriculture, rural development and food security.

The implementation of these four axes is closely linked to the National Development Plans of our Member States and to the initiatives underway by the Partners as well as by our three specialised organisations, namely: Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), Regional Fisheries Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (COREP) and African Energy Pool (PEAC). This Agenda 21-25 of the Department for which I am responsible aims to respond in a precise and realistic manner to the expectations of our Member States on the contribution of the environmental economy, the eco-exploitation of extractive resources and eco-agriculture to their GDP and the resolution of the problems actually experienced by the population.

Concerning these three economies and their link with the protection of the Congo Basin forests, I would like to inform you that ECCAS Commission in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Congo, through the Ministry of Forest Economy, and the partners' support (WWF, EU, AFD, UNESCO and CIFOR), is organising from 3 to 5 August 2021 in Brazzaville a regional workshop on the definition of the terms "forests", "deforestation" and "forest degradation" adapted to the context of forests of Central Africa, an activity of the 2021 Priority Action Plan of DERNADR.

#### **Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

In the interest of accelerating the transformation of natural resource economy of our Member States in general and that of their forest economy in particular, the successful implementation of ECCAS Agenda 21-25 on the environment and rural development requires, among other, an institutional reorganisation in which the roles and mandates of all parties are clear and precise.

In this regard, I would like to inform you that the first results of the new institutional framework for the environment under construction, in accordance with the revised Treaty of the Community and the subsequent texts, will be presented at the 19th ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government scheduled for 23 July 2021.

In conclusion, ECCAS Commission is delighted to be holding this session of the Governing Council, which will enable us to be informed about the progress in implementing the German Facilitation roadmap and the CBFP prospects.

On this note, I wish every success to the 9th Meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Governing Council.

Thank you for your kind attention.

#### **23 - Opening speech by the COMIFAC current Chairman**

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**Mr. President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS);  
Honourable Dr. Christian Ruck, Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany for the Congo Basin  
Forest Partnership (CBFP)**

**Mr. Executive Secretary of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC)**

**Members of the CBFP colleges;**

**Dear Participants,**

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I am pleased to be here in Douala for the ninth meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Governing Council.

As the current Chairman of the Central African Forest Commission and Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of the Republic of Cameroon, I would like, on behalf of the COMIFAC member countries, to extend a warm welcome to all the participants who have travelled to Douala despite the context of the coronavirus pandemic, which makes travel and meetings difficult.

These wishes are also addressed to the colleagues who follow us on the dedicated platform. I would also like to express our deep gratitude to the Federal Republic of Germany Facilitation which, through the CBFP, has ensured the organisation and financing of this 9<sup>th</sup> CBFP Governing Council.

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Participants,**

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) was born following the appeal made to the international community by the United Nations General Assembly, through resolution 54/214 of 22 December 1999.

This resolution aimed to support COMIFAC member countries in the implementation of their political will to conserve forest resources, as expressed in the Yaoundé Declaration of March 1999.

Twenty years later, the CBFP continues to support this vision of the Central Africa Heads of State regarding the promotion of sustainable management of forest ecosystems, the conservation of biodiversity, the fight against climate change and the reduction of poverty in our countries. It is possible through technical and financial support from its members.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recall the important role of CBFP facilitation in coordination of its members' interventions.

Facilitation promotes the development of synergy between projects and programmes implemented by partners in member countries, in accordance with the Yaoundé Declaration and the COMIFAC convergence plan.

Recently, COMIFAC and facilitation have set themselves the objective of ensuring that the voice of the sub-region is heard by development partners, civil society organisations and international organisations, particularly during major international meetings.

It is only in this way - we believe - that the efforts made by our countries to ensure the sustainable management of the Central Africa forests, the world's second lung after the Amazonian forests, will be heard.

It's only in this way that our demands for fair compensation of efforts to preserve and conserve the Congo Basin forests for the benefit of our planet shall be heard.

And the consideration and appropriate response to our legitimate expectations and demands should enable us to ensure the improvement of living conditions and environment of populations of the Congo Basin. You will agree with me that this demand is entirely legitimate.

However, there are challenges, in particular the new forms of "environmental crime", illegal exploitation of forests and major poaching of emblematic species of our wildlife. These issues remain particularly worrying and appropriate responses must be found.

The need for concerted sub-regional action becomes an imperative.

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Participants,**

The Douala meeting, like the previous CBFP Governing Council meetings, offers to members of the CBFP Colleges the opportunity to exchange on their respective experiences, but also to adopt new ways of acting, in order to better face the environmental challenges for which the whole planet is still looking for satisfactory solutions.

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As I mentioned earlier, a lot of efforts have already been made, both by the Congo Basin countries and by the Congo Basin Forest Partnership members.

But there is still a long way in achieving sustainable management of the Congo Basin's natural resources and to effectively combat climate change.

The work of this 9<sup>th</sup> CBFP Governing Council, which is being held here in Douala in the Republic of Cameroon, is of great importance for the continuation of our joint action.

Thus, on the basis of a harmonised roadmap and the subjects that will be dealt with during this meeting, the major expectation of our meeting remains **the adoption of a draft common position statement of the Congo Basin countries for preparations of major international events such as the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Biodiversity and Climate Change, as well as the IUCN World Conservation Congress.**

Indeed, the Congo Basin countries should, as in the past, participate in these international meetings as a block and defend a common position, which project was drawn up on the initiative of the facilitation and submitted to countries for consideration before the last meeting in December in Kinshasa.

This harmonised roadmap is a sign of good collaboration between the Central African Forest Commission and the CBFP Facilitation.

It symbolises our way of working for a common goal, namely the sustainable management of the Congo Basin's natural resources.

I wish every success to the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CBFP Governing Council.

**Long live COMIFAC,  
Long live International Cooperation,  
Long live the CBFP,  
I thank you for your kind attention.**

### **3 - Declarations of Co-leaders of the CBFP Colleges**

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#### **31 - Statement by the representative of the United Kingdom, for the College of Donors**

- Excellencies, distinguished guests, all protocols observed, my name is Karina Watkins, I am a Climate and Environment Advisor at the FCDO representing the UK government. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today.
- As you all know, the UK will be hosting the COP 26 in Glasgow this November. This year is a landmark opportunity to bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, notably to limit global temperature rises to no more than 1.5 degrees C.
- Without tropical forests absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, we won't meet this 1.5-degree target. As well as regulating the climate, we also know that forests are essential for local livelihoods, biodiversity and the prevention of pandemics.
- This is why the UK is organising an Action on Forests and Land Use Event the 2nd day of the COP26 World Leaders Summit, Tuesday 2nd November, hosted by our Prime Minister. This event will shine a leader-level spotlight on the sector at COP26 in the hope that we can demonstrate how ambitious actions on forests and land use can contribute to keeping the 1.5-degree Paris agreement in sight. It will be a leader-level moment for forests aiming to deliver action through four themes: (i) political action; (ii) mobilising finance; (iii) sustainable production and consumption; and (iv) people.
- As part of this event, we want to highlight the global significance of the Congo Basin forests and showcase ambition. This may also be a good opportunity to highlight the Declaration of

ECCAS/COMIFAC countries for the Congo Basin forests and their vicinity that you have all been working on as a joint statement that Congo Basin political leaders can speak about and champion at the event.

- The Forests and Land Use event would provide an opportunity for Heads of State to represent the region and potentially announce an ambitious joint statement on forests and land use. This joint statement could be the CBFP's declaration. Even though we know that the CBFP declaration will be launched at the Tropical Forest Symposium in September, in Berlin, perhaps COP26 could be another opportunity to provide the declaration with even more visibility.
  - We want to develop this event with key forested countries. For this reason, the UK is inviting leaders to co-create the event with it. Our COP26 President Designate, Rt Hon Alok Sharma will be issuing a letter to a small number of countries, including the DRC, to invite them to co-create this Forests and Land Use event together.
  - We are still in the process of designing this event and would like to take advantage of today's CBFP Council to seek your advice and suggestions on how best to showcase the Congo Basin forests at COP26. Any thoughts you have would be much appreciated.
  - In addition, I have a few questions that I welcome your feedback on:
    - We want to find a way of making this event inclusive, e.g., with video montages of leaders making commitments, participation from community / indigenous leaders as well as Heads of State. Only a small number of Heads of State will be invited to the Forests and Land Use Event, due to the limited time available, would ECCAS/COMIFAC Heads of State be open to the idea of a small number of Congo Basin Leaders representing the interests of the Congo Basin forest region as a whole at this event?
    - Do you think your Head of State will be willing to present the Declaration of ECCAS/COMIFAC countries at this Forests and Land Use event as a joint declaration, representing the interests of the region?
    - We also want this event to showcase and provide a voice to the important role played by indigenous peoples and communities in sustainable forest management. We welcome suggestions of indigenous or religious leaders that we could invite to also attend this Forests and Land Use event.
  - My email address is: [karina.watkins@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:karina.watkins@fcdo.gov.uk) or [k-watkins@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:k-watkins@dfid.gov.uk) Please feel free to contact me.
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## **32 - Private Sector Statement**

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This Friday morning, July 16, the CBFP Council Meeting will take place; Erith Ngatchou, Praveen Mohan, Florent Lager and I will be able to express messages from the private sector to other stakeholders (civil society, administration, international NGOs, donors, researchers, etc.).

Following our last meeting in May, regarding the Kinshasa Declaration, Erith and I sent a letter to the German Facilitation regarding the issues we discussed and requesting some changes in the Declaration (see attached). And I am happy to report that our request has been taken into account. You will find attached the latest version of the Declaration that we received last night.

At Friday's meeting, we will have 5 minutes to present private sector activities, its perspectives and we will be able to make a statement on behalf of our private sector college (see attached agenda).

Do you have any points you would like to be mentioned during these 5 minutes or in the private sector statement?

For the forestry and wood industry I am thinking in particular of:

- Efforts to motivate and support companies in the forest certification process,
  - Our ADEFAC project to improve continuing education programme,
  - Problems related to new decrees that are inapplicable or that are a source of disagreement with Problems related to new, unenforceable decrees or sources of disagreement with law enforcement officers that exist in several countries.
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Thank you in advance for your comments and suggestions,

Yours sincerely,

**Jacqueline LARDIT**

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### **33 - COLLEGE 7 JOINT STATEMENT: MULTILATERALS AND INTERGOVERNMENTALS TO THE 7<sup>TH</sup> CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2021**

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- Honourable Dr. Christian Ruck, Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership
  - Your Excellences, the Ministers present
  - Representatives of ECCAS, EU, COMIFAC, OCFSA
  - Representatives of CSO
  - Distinguished Participants
  - Ladies and Gentlemen
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On behalf of College 7 of multilaterals and intergovernmental organizations, we wish to congratulate Honourable Dr. Christian Ruck, Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, upon organizing the 8<sup>th</sup> Governing Council of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). The College 7 once again reiterates its commitment to the sustainable conservation in the Congo Basin. Following our report to the 7<sup>th</sup> CBFP Council meeting in Malabo, the world has been engulfed by the effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic that has caused serious disruption to the conservation work, sustainable forest and protected areas management across the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. In this difficult time, the following is the update from the College.

The work of promotion of world heritage and biosphere reserves continues, though actions for the creation of new World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves have been stalled due to the global pandemic; the focus in this time has been directed to assisting national authorities with management of the sites to make them safe for staff, visitors and communities surrounding the sites.

In the support of the Protected Area Authorities, the college has worked to assist them with dealing with the effects of the pandemic by drawing up contingency plans and operational support plans for managing of the conservation sites and also protecting staff and surrounding communities by making vaccination accessible and providing relief to communities that are now not able to earn from tourism activities within the Protected Areas. This is crucially important so that these communities do not engage in illegal activities within the conservation sites out of desperation for their survival.

The college continues to support sustainable forest management across the partnership states with the aim of preserving the gains already achieved as the world combats the pandemic.

Lastly the college appeals to donor countries to focus on supporting World Heritage sites and Protected Area authorities with the tools and supplies that they need for health and social protection during this pandemic which has the potential to wipe out gains that have already been achieved in institutional strengthening, capacity building, law enforcement, prosecution and justice and in the fight against wildlife crime and trafficking in natural resources.

We thank you for your attention

### 34 - STATEMENT BY THE COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL NGOS

Your Excellency Mr. Jules Doret Ndong, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and Co-Chair of CBFP Governing Council;

Dr. Honoré Tabuna, Commissioner responsible for the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Agriculture and Rural Development, of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), represented here Central African States (ECCAS), represented here online;

Dr. Christian Ruck, CBFP Facilitator, Co-Chairman of CBFP Governing Council;

Mr. Hervé Martial Maidou, Executive Secretary of COMIFAC;

Dr. Linjouom Ibrahim, Permanent Secretary of OCFSA;

Dear Members, Dear Alternate Members of CBFP Governing Council;

Ladies and Gentlemen in your titles, ranks and qualities;

We, the College of International NGOs within Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), having participated in the Meeting of Country Experts for the elaboration of Country Investment Plans related to Zoonoses, Transhumance, fight against transboundary Poaching, Security and Sustainable Development, address our congratulations to the Federal Republic of Germany Facilitation of the CBFP for the organisation of the work held in Douala, Cameroon from 12 to 15 July 2021.

At the end of these proceedings, the College takes this opportunity to address the following:

1. On annual activities of the College:

**a. Among other meetings, we would like to mention** the meeting of the INGOs College (with a large participation) which took place to discuss and provide a detailed report to the Facilitator on the report to the Facilitator on the draft Declaration of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Central African Forestry Commission (COMIFAC) countries on the Congo Basin forests and its periphery.

**b.** Concerns remain concerning social and human rights issues are not sufficiently addressed in the Declaration despite the College's unanimous agreement on the participatory nature of the process - in particular Land rights and local communities and indigenous people's rights - although some countries have taken steps to revise legislation on these issues.

2. On N'Djamena Declaration:

The INGOs college reassures its support for this declaration. Their commitment to the implementation of activities in the different geographical blocks is an example of their interest and contributions, both technical and financial.

3. On peaceful transhumance and security:

Aware of the fact that the phenomenon of transhumance, poorly organised in the concerned countries, can generate serious problems such as degradation of ecosystems, difficult cohabitation between pastors and local communities in the use of natural resources (water, fodder, etc.), and threats on States internal security; INGOs strongly encourage the establishment of appropriate mechanisms for the management of spaces, transhumants and their livestock. All of this should be done within the framework of integrated development, consolidation and implementation of Country Investment Plans adapted to national contexts, taking into account common cross-border aspects towards a so-called "peaceful" transhumance.

4. On COVID-19 / zoonoses / biodiversity / ecotourism:

The INGOs, aware of the increased risk and the significant impact of epidemic risks on the economies, human and animal health of the countries concerned economies and human and animal health, as exemplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, advocate for the implementation of an integrated, interdisciplinary and multisectoral approach following “One Health” approaches. This approach requires a better evaluation of risk factors for emergence, the implementation of scientific research as well as prevention measures, including the protection of the integrity of ecosystems, implementation of systematic monitoring and warning systems., and effective management measures for epidemic episodes. To this end, an open dialogue between local experts and stakeholders in environmental protection, animal and human health, climate, but also scientific research, operational institutions and policy makers, is needed to promote actions that safeguard a healthy environment and minimise outbreak risks.

5. On local communities and indigenous people’s rights:

While reaffirming its commitment to the **forthcoming** Declaration of the ECCAS/COMIFAC countries for the Congo Basin forests and their periphery, **the drafting of which began** in December 2020 in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and in particular **on** the need to mention the decisive role of natural resources associated with the Congo Basin forests, constituting the subsistence framework of at least 100 million people who live in their direct environment or in their periphery. Recognising that these forests fulfil essential social, cultural and livelihood functions for those local communities and indigenous peoples who have flourished in their environment, INGOs strongly encourage their involvement in all initiatives launched under the N’Djamena Declaration, in full respect of their human rights.

6. On Green Economy and Nature-based Solutions to fight against Climate Change

In the run-up to COP 26, INGOs will support the strong commitments made by ECCAS States, which aim to promote green economy policy, while protecting high integrity forests and strengthening the climate and social resilience of local communities and indigenous peoples.

**Done in Douala, 16 July 2020**

**The International NGOs College**

## **35 - ROSCEVAC POSITION PAPER**

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### **Partnership issues for climate change and biodiversity conservation**

**FOR THE ATTENTION of Mrs Rita LARANJHINA, Director General of the External Action Service, European Commission**

In the framework of Africa-Europe partnership funded by the Neighbourhood, Development Cooperation and International Cooperation Instrument (NDCCI), it is recommended that:

- (i) fight against wildlife crime and the illicit exploitation of mineral resources should be stepped up by building on existing institutional arrangements
  - (ii) establishment of regular consultation frameworks with local populations, particularly in the area of human/wildlife conflict management, be systematised, **with primacy given to the point of view of rural populations** who have lived in harmony with nature until now and, in particular and, in a way, have contributed to the perpetuation of natural heritage;
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- (iii) the logic of **compensating loss of income** from wildlife resources for rural communities is **systematically integrated** into development projects/programmes;
  - (iv) a local, integrated, circular and sustainable development model, based on the economic potential of terrestrial and marine protected areas and their peripheral areas is promoted.
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#### I. Post-Cotonou partnership Actors

The Cotonou Agreement will have enabled the ACP/EU partnership to assert its true originality as a model of partnership that is generous, benevolent, respectful of each other and demanding. It has established actors of a win-win partnership who should be preserved and strengthened in their roles. This is why it is suggested that the post-Cotonou partnership:

- (i) consolidate Support Units for Authorising Officers in a new role with regard to the challenges of the partnership. Through their experience and capitalised knowledge, Units should be the referents of the partnership;
  - (ii) make relevant local civil society organisations play a real role as service providers and development partners relevant local civil society organisations. Too often today, local CSOs are still subcontractors for international NGOs. The Civil society of the Central African region is now advocating for fully assumed leadership, with assistance from relevant European NGOs and not the other way around;
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#### II. General guidelines

##### o At regional and ACP level

The Congo Basin, where around 100 million people live, is the second largest river basin in the world, after the Amazon Basin. Like the Amazon Basin, it contains one of the world's most biodiverse rainforests. In 2013, the Congo Basin had over 286 million hectares of forest cover and Central Africa constituted roughly 10% of the world's biodiversity. Central Africa is therefore of key importance in global challenges of combating climate change, biodiversity and environmental protection.

In view of the above, the EU would benefit by:

- (iii) **being more ambitious in its investments in the sub-region** on the themes of green and blue economy, in which other major global actors (e.g., China) are increasingly interested, since they are now convinced of the dangers caused by climate change;
- (iv) **avoid the trap of tied aid, aligned with foreign policy issues.** This approach to aid, which has not been applied under the EDF, will not allow EU to be more visible to ACP countries as a major player in global politics and diplomacy. On the contrary, **the logic of tied aid would in the long-term damage the prestige and influence of EU, as is currently the case with France, which has based its development aid on foreign policy considerations** and whose aid is particularly tied.

##### o At national level (GABON)

Since the 10th EDF, **EU has shown a lack of ambition in Gabon.** EU bilateral aid grants to Gabon have been steadily decreasing since then on the motive that Gabon is an upper middle-income country. However, EU would benefit from mobilising more direct resources for Gabon in priority areas such as the green economy (environment and climate change, biodiversity conservation and ecotourism, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, development of sustainable cocoa and coffee sectors, water supply and



sanitation), **development of energy, digital and transport infrastructure in support of green Gabon, support mechanisms for SMEs, technical education and vocational training.**  
**The role of Gabon, a country of migration and a host country, in stability of the continent justifies investing heavily to guarantee social stability of the country and of ECCAS.**

### **36 - Declaration of the Civil Society College of the CBFP: CEFDHAC.**

To the Lord God Almighty be praise and glory for this additional day that He has added to our pilgrimage to this land of trials and uncertainties, Land that does not belong to us and that we are borrowing from our children,

To Him be the Grace for having retained us in His divine agenda to participate in this ninth meeting of the CBFP Governing Council.

My sincere greetings to His Excellency, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon, current President of COMIFAC, and of CEFDHAC.

Our gratitude and that of actors and stakeholders of CEFDHAC, to Honourable Doctor Christian RUCK for the invitation extended to us since June 16, to take part by videoconference to this important meeting which is being held in the aftermath of Euro football tournament which was played with crowded stadiums, without a mask.

Your Excellency, Ministers,

Your Excellency Mr. Commissioner responsible for the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development of ECCAS,

Mr. Executive Secretary of COMIFAC,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Co-leaders of the CBFP Colleges,

Distinguished guests in your respective ranks and qualities,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Established in 1996 in Brazzaville by the Ministerial Conference organised with the representatives of the stakeholders involved in the implementation of the United Nations Agenda 21, a conference whose essential points already adopted in 1996 were renewed in the final declaration of the Yaoundé Conference in 1999.

The Central African Dense Forest Ecosystems Conference (CEFDHAC), which is to be established as a sub-regional organisation under point 10 of the Brazzaville Declaration 1996, is the mother of all sub-regional processes in the Congo Basin in the domain of conservation and sustainable management of forest resources.

Having given birth to COMIFAC in 2005, it was entitled to expect that the multiform support would enable it to fulfil its mandate as recognised by the COMIFAC Treaty.

Within the framework of the organisation of the CBFP Colleges, it now finds itself within a civil society organisation, while the said actors constitute only one chamber within CEFDHAC among many other actors.

It is appropriate that the GIZ / COMIFAC Support Project consulted with CEFDHAC in 2016 for its strategic, institutional and organisational development, and, in line with the statement made by Dr. Paul Scholte during the closing ceremony of the validation workshop of the detailed report, who declared: "*CEFDHAC is too big to all*", CEFDHAC took advantage of the various deadlines of the CBFP to hold the hand in the maturation of the abovementioned process.

Having obtained since the sixth meeting of the CBFP Governing Council held in Malabo in June 2019, that special Civil Society days should be organised before the actual Governing Council meeting and having received the favourable assent of the Honourable Dr. Ruck in December 2020 in Kinshasa to maintain the said days, it is necessary to deplore the confinement to which the pandemic of COVID-19 obliges us, which will offer the pretext to serve the text of the non-holding of the aforementioned day, in a context that should have been used to bring together the Experts' meeting on the N'Djamena Initiative, the actors of the civil society and the other stakeholders.

To date, CEFDHAC has yet to mature the process of its institutionalisation by making use of its statutory bodies, in particular the CEFDHAC Regional Steering Committee, which itself follows the holding of national forums, knowing that the process is completed with the holding of the Sub-Regional Forum, which itself is organised before any ordinary session of the COMIFAC Council of Ministers, instead of what has prevailed for some years as the experts' segment.

While pausing on the Regional Steering Committee, let me remind you that it is the CEFDHAC steering body, in the same way as the Council of Ministers is for COMIFAC. The convening of the meeting, which is expected to take place soon after the revitalisation of certain national forums (Gabon, CAR, Congo, etc.), will make it possible to consider, among other:

- current mandates of the CEFDHAC Steering Committee members;
- appointment of CEFDHAC representative to the CBFP Civil Society College;
- Validation of the CEFDHAC institutionalisation process;
- examining the level of ownership in POPC-COMIFAC countries by the non-state actors, as well as the modalities that could be adopted to boost the said ownership;
- examining the level of ownership and support in the countries for various initiatives aimed at meeting the challenges of conservation, sustainable management of forest resources, the fight against forest resources, combating the adverse effects of climate change and disaster risk reduction by non-state actors;
- Reviewing reports from national forums and networks already affiliated;
- Reviewing applications for affiliation from new networks (RECEIAC, ReCtrad, RACCC, Green Africa, ANA, Forest Coalition, ROSCAP);
- preparation of the Sub-Regional forum.

### **Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In setting up colleges under the new CBFP governance structure, co-leaders were called upon to animate the action within their colleges between two meetings of the Governing Council, in order to report on the activities carried out within their colleges at the Council meeting.

Having taken advantage of the various projects for which CEFDHAC was able to obtain funding from GIZ / COMIFAC Support Project, we were able to draw up opposition papers on:

- climate negotiations, subject of COP 26
- new global Humanity and Nature framework, subject of COP 15 on biodiversity
- IUCN World Congress.

These position papers will have to be approved by all non-state actors and stakeholders, CEFDHAC members at the national level as well as in the territories and areas where challenges related to this issue by the populations, local communities and indigenous peoples.

Since this exercise is not exclusive to CEFDHAC, it will accompany States and Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) in the implementation of:

- COMIFAC Convergence Plan
- One Health initiative
- forest governance;
- development of traditional knowledge and expertise in terms of biodiversity conservation;
- fight against harmful effects of climate change;
- risk and disaster reduction based on nature-based solutions;
- appropriation of convergence platform by non-state actors with a view to their effective participation in the feedback of impact results reflecting the implementation of COMIFAC Convergence Plan;
- promotion of green economy;
- monitoring the N'Djamena initiative and supporting the implementation of its investment plan by non-state actors;
- participation in environmental diplomacy alongside other institutions in the sub-region

- monitoring the implementation of ECOFAC 6 programme, which will soon be in its final phase, the validation notes of the future Green Deal programme;
- etc.

Moreover, we cannot fail to recall that in the current state of CEFDHAC's texts, the activities of affiliated networks are called upon to contribute to the development and influence of CEFDHAC. It is the latter which, after having followed them separately, then pooled them with that of the actors and stakeholders of CEFDHAC, brings the main conclusions to States, ECCAS, COMIFAC, and partners. The direct links maintained by some partners with the said networks, sometimes jeopardising the supervision of the flagship activities of the said networks by CEFDHAC, deserve to be denounced here; as it is not a secret that their only purpose is to jeopardise the leadership of CEFDHAC in its networks, for the benefit of hidden agendas which, *like a dog that must be accused of rabies in order to drown it*, use any possible means to relay and develop a strong visibility on reducing elements of culture which, inherent to the life of each organisation, do not spare CEFDHAC.

Congo Basin, the world's second largest forest lung, is called upon to play a full role in the stability of the global climate with strong institutions that accompany our States in raising their ambitions on climate, by redoubling their commitments to the preservation of biodiversity, which have been retained by Governments of the said countries, conservation considered as a tool for combating the harmful effects of climate change, not without holding the hand of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and African Union 2063 Agenda.

In line with the principle of multi-stakeholder participation, all these projects will be supported by with CEFDHAC alongside the States and TFPs, holding hands with the values we have for the implementation of our Convergence Plan, in particular:

- respect for human rights and indigenous peoples' rights
- taking into account gender, cooperation,
- partnership and solidarity,
- good governance

Respect of these values cannot be achieved without also holding hands with the assumptions that are:

- political commitment affirmed since the Yaoundé summit, - the ownership of Convergence Plan by all stakeholders strengthened
- effective sustainable financing,
- alignment and support of international partners for the implementation of Convergence Plan,
- conditions of peace and security maintained.

All this, in the best interests of the populations, indigenous peoples and local communities.

Thank you for your kind attention.

## **32 - Statement of the Scientific and Academic College**

### **CBFP - College 6: Scientific and Academic Institutions - Report on the activities of the College for the 2021 first semester**

The activities of College 6 focused around four points, namely: contribution to the Congo Basin Forest Declaration, participation in the committees of CAFI study on drivers of deforestation in Africa, publication of the report on the state of protected areas in Central Africa and preparation of report on State of Forests.

#### **1) Contribution to the Congo Basin Forest Declaration**

The contribution of college 6 to the declaration for the Basin forests was the subject of a meeting of the college held online on 26 May 2021 with the participation of Dr. Christian Ruck, Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.

## 2) Participation in CAFE study Committees on Deforestation Drivers

The participation of college 6 was ensured by Prof. Damase Khasa from Laval University (Canada) and Dr. Richard Eba'a Atyi, CIFOR Regional Coordinator for Central Africa and Coleader of College 6. It should be noted that the CAFE project on deforestation drivers is piloted by FAO. The objectives of this project are:

- i) Assess recent trends in deforestation and forest degradation (D&D) (post-2015);
- ii) Assess and build consensus on direct factors;
- iii) Develop geospatial tools to inform land-use planning.

## 3) Publication of State of Protected Areas (SOPA) report in Central Africa

Prepared with contributions from around one hundred internationally renowned experts working on Central African ecosystems under the coordination of Forests Observatory (OFAC), EdAP report was officially launched during an online ceremony on 29 June 2021. It is currently free of charge for all.

The report shows, without ambiguity, that the national and sub-regional networks have been greatly strengthened but are facing many challenges. Detailed analyses, intended to enlighten decision-makers and managers, explore several important themes: governance, ecotourism, human-elephant conflicts, transhumance, mining and oil industry. This paper shows the importance of protected areas for the sustainable development in Central Africa: it aims to contribute to a multisectoral dialogue and a better integration of these areas in the development strategies of the countries.

## 4) Preparation of the State of the Forest (SoF) report

Drafting began in 2020 and requires contributions from 150 experts and sceptics. It is expected to be launched before the end of 2021, probably at the COP on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow. The drafting of EdF report is coordinated by FOCA and we thank the CBFP facilitation for agreeing to contribute financially to its production.

### **Outlook:**

- Contribution to the regional workshop on the definition of the forest to be organised in Brazzaville in August 2021 by ECCAS with the financial support of partners such as AFD and WWF.
- Support for technical and scientific preparation of Central African participants to international debates related to climate change and biodiversity management biological diversity.