

JOIN OUR COP26 FORUM ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2021

Saving Africa's Congo Basin Rainforest, People and Biodiversity

**An Interactive Forum on Civil Society led forest
and wildlife monitoring and law enforcement.
Actions, Learning and Priorities for the Struggle Ahead**



**Join us at the COMIFAC Pavillion or register
to watch online at cidt.org.uk/cop26forum**

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Congo Basin forests are of global importance. Unfortunately, these forests are under severe threats from unsustainable human activities accelerating illegal deforestation, conversion, wildlife poaching and loss of livelihoods of indigenous peoples. With support from FCDO, CIDT has strengthened the role of Congo Basin Civil Society Partners as environmental defenders and monitors of illegal deforestation and wildlife trafficking over the last decade generating evidence for stronger law enforcement and sustainable management of forests and wildlife.

Our panel discussion during COP 26 will provide a unique opportunity for representatives from the Congo region to present face-to-face to the live audience their first hand experiences of tropical forest and biodiversity loss and their tactics to counter illegal deforestation and wildlife trafficking in the region. Additionally, UK based experts on independent forest and wildlife monitoring and law enforcement will present.

The panel will be hosted in the COMIFAC pavilion and will present and critique the role of independent forest and wildlife monitoring and law enforcement by civil society as a key tool for fighting illegal deforestation and biodiversity loss while highlighting its contributions to climate change. Panellists will share Central African experience and recommendations to stimulate debate and improved understanding of the realistic options for the Congo Basin. The panel session will target government officials, donor agencies, private sector, NGOs, Biodiversity Conservationists, etc.

Meet the panel



Dr Jim Djontu,
European Forest Institute



Harrison Nnoko,
AJESH Cameroon



Dr Alison Hoare,
Chatham House (TBC)



Moderator: Prof Philip N Dearden
Convenor: Prof Aurelian Mbzibain

Richard Nyirenda
Sarah Thomas



Lilian Barros, Comptoir
Juridique Junior (CJJ)



Françoise Van de Ven,
ATIBT/Board member



Arielle Nkodo, FAO
FLEGT Programme (TBC)

Agenda

Introduction: Prof Dearden will introduce the panel with a brief overview of IFM and wildlife monitoring and law enforcement while showcasing FCDO support to its development in the past decade.

Part 1: Experience from the last decade: This will be followed by fast moving presentations by our expert Congo Basin civil society and private sector partners and UK based experts on the theme of 'Independent Forest and wildlife Monitoring and law enforcement' case studies. Experience from the last decade will be drawn and presented from Congo, Gabon and Cameroon.

Audience questions: Prof Dearden will facilitate questions from both live and remote audiences to the panel to clarify and critique tactics and strategies to save Africa's Congo Basin Rainforest, People and Biodiversity.

Part 2: Recommendations for the next decade: This will be a 30 minute round of presentations reflecting on ways forward for a stronger role of IFM and wildlife monitoring in saving Congo Basin forests, people and biodiversity.

Audience questions: Prof Dearden will facilitate questions from live and remote audiences to further clarify and critique the recommendations.

Conclusion: CIDT will conclude aiming to summarise the recommendations for action drawn both from the Panel and the Audiences Contributions.



Highlighting achievements from our Congo Basin forest monitoring project

For four years, partners on the Citizen Voices for Change (CV4C) project explored ways of making forest governance, and particularly independent forest monitoring stronger, more targeted, more effective. They took on powerful players and assisted government officials. They integrated cross-cutting issues such as gender responsiveness into each aspect of their work. They reached across national borders to help each other.

Read their stories at cidt.org.uk/cv4cimpactstories