

CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership was launched at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. It is a non-binding multi-stakeholder partnership enabling member organizations to cooperate on a voluntary basis. The Partnership is open to all states, international institutions and organizations, NGOs, research and academic institutions and private sector entities, which adhere to its Cooperation Framework.

Cooperation within CBFP aims to support the shared vision of the Central African Heads of State, in particular by improving the effectiveness of measures taken, including technical and financial support, to promote the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable management of forest ecosystems, to combat climate change and to alleviate poverty in Central African countries in line with the COMIFAC Convergence Plan.



Partnership members work to support the implementation of actions undertaken to:

- ◆ Protect regional biodiversity,
- ◆ Promote good forest governance,
- ◆ Fight against climate change, and
- ◆ Improve standards of living in the region.

MEET THE CBFP'S MEMBERS

The partnership brings together the 10 member states of the COMIFAC, donor agencies, international organizations, NGOs, scientific institutions and private sector representatives. It currently has 97 members assembled in seven colleges:

The CBFP Regional College

COMIFAC, ECCAS, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Gabon, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Rwanda.

The CBFP Civil Society College

CEFDHAC, FLAG, PR2CAC, RECEIAC, REFADD, REJEFAC, ROSCEVAC, REFACOF(#), REPAR(#), RERAC(#), SEEAC(#), Africa Community Rights Network(#).

(#) In the accession process.

The CBFP International NGO College

African Parks Network, Arcus Foundation, AWF, BDA Foundation, CI, CUSO International, Jane Goodall Institute Canada, Jane Goodall Institute USA, IUCN, Laga & the Eagle Network, Nature+ ASBL, Rainforest Alliance, RAPAC, RFUK, SNV, SRAFM, TI, TNC, TRAFFIC, VSO, WCS, WRI, WWF, ZSL.

The CBFP Private Sector College

ALPI group, ATIBT – IFIA, Forest Trends, FORM International, FSC, IHC-INTERHOLCO, OLAM (CIB), PEFC, Precious Woods Holding, Society of American Foresters, The Forest Trust (TFT), Volcanoes Safaris, WIJMA Cameroon SA.

The CBFP Donor College

AfDB, Belgium, Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, World Bank.

The CBFP Scientific and Academic College

Bioversity International, CIDT University of Wolverhampton, CIFOR, CIRAD, CORAF/WECARD, Drexel University(*), ICRAF, IRAD, IRD, IITA, IRET, Maryland University(*), Université de Laval(*), University of California LA(*), University of Wisconsin Madison (UWM)(*), Woods Hole Research Center, RIFFEAC(#),

(*) US Academic Consortium for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (ACCBFP), along with University of New Orleans, University of Oregon and University of South Florida.

The CBFP Multilaterals College

FAO, GRASP, GVTC, OIBT – ITTO, UNCBD, UNCCD, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, UNCMS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO.

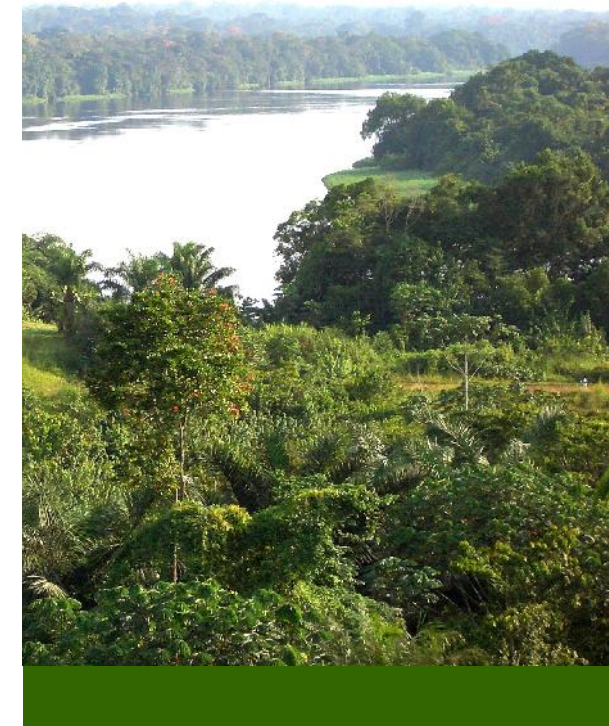


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A LASTING PARTNERSHIP



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COOPERATION STRUCTURES OF CBFP

Consistent with its non-binding and voluntary character, CBFP does not have a formalized institutional structure. Instead it has a set of informal structures:

CBFP Annual Meeting of Parties

The annual CBFP Meeting of Parties serves as the “General Assembly” of the Partnership. This meeting is held annually in one of the COMIFAC Member States and brings together all CBFP stakeholders.

The CBFP Colleges

CBFP members are grouped into seven colleges based on the type and role of actor.

The CBFP Council

The CBFP Council is composed of two representatives of each CBFP college and is chaired by the CBFP Facilitation

The CBFP Facilitation

The CBFP is led on a voluntary basis by one of its members, which serves as Facilitator and plays a key role in fostering effective dialogue and cooperation within the Partnership.

The CBFP Facilitation is currently provided by the European Union for the period 2016-2017.



Forest ecosystems in the Congo Basin

Forest ecosystems in the Congo Basin cover a surface area of over 301 million million hectares including all types of forests in the 10 COMIFAC countries and Angola (FAO-ITTO, 2011). These ecosystems are the second largest reserve of dense tropical rainforests in the world after the Amazon Rainforest.

The Congo Basin forests are of global importance for biodiversity conservation and provide essential ecological services. Although an extensive network of protected areas has been created, the region's forest ecosystems are still at risk from over-exploitation of timber and unsustainable natural resource extraction, requiring a concerted global response.



ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES & CENTRAL AFRICAN FOREST COMMISSION

ECCAS

The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) is an inter-governmental organization that was established in October 1983. Its mission is to promote and strengthen harmonious cooperation and balanced and self-sustaining development in various spheres of economic and social activity. It aims to ensure collective autonomy, raise people's living standards, enhance and maintain economic stability, foster close and peaceful ties between its Member States and contribute towards the progress and development of the African continent.

COMIFAC

The Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) is the technical entity of the Economic Community of Central African States responsible for the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in the Congo Basin. It ensures the implementation of international conventions and forest development initiatives in Central Africa. COMIFAC's judicial framework is grounded in the 2005 “Treaty on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems”.

SUB-REGIONAL CONVERGENCE PLAN

The COMIFAC Convergence Plan is the platform that defines the strategic lines and priority actions for achieving the Central African States' common vision for conservation and sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests. Its second version, revised and adopted in July 2014 for the period 2015-2025, comprises six (6) priority intervention sectors and three (3) cross-cutting sectors.