



**ECCAS**

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**20th Meeting of Parties of partners of the Congo Basin Forest  
Partnership (CBFP)**

**From June 3 to 5 in Kinshasa, DRC**

**Speech of H.E. Mr Honoré TABUNA,  
Commissioner for the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture  
and Rural Development of the ECCAS Commission  
at the closing ceremony**

**H.E. Mrs Eve BAZAIBA MASUDI, Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the Environment  
and Sustainable Development of the Democratic Republic of Congo;**

**H.E. Mr Prosper DODIKO, Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock and  
Rural Development of the Republic of Burundi, President in office of the COMIFAC  
Council of Ministers;**

**Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen, Ministers of the Economic Community of Central  
African States (ECCAS) in charge of Environment and Forests;**

**H.E. Ambassador Christophe Guilhou, Co-facilitator for the French Republic of the  
Congo Basin Forest Partnership, Director of International Affairs at the Ministry of  
Europe and Foreign Affairs,**

**H.E. Mrs Flore PAMBO, Ambassador for Climate, Sustainable Development and  
Environment, Gabonese CBFP Co-Facilitator,**

**Dear Representatives of the diplomatic corps, international institutions and technical  
and financial partners;**

**Dear Representatives of sub-regional organisations, civil society, the private sector  
and scientists**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, all protocols dully respected;**

**Excellencies Dear Ministers; Ladies and  
Gentlemen,**

**Today, 5 June 2024, at the Pullman Hotel in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic  
Republic of Congo marks the end of the 20th Meeting of the Parties of the CBFP.**

Reports given during plenary sessions of thematic workshops and their recommendations showed that the goals set and the results expected by the organisers had been achieved, and that the Kinshasa conference had been successfully organised.

This is an opportunity to congratulate the High Authorities of the Democratic Republic of Congo, headed by His Excellency Mr Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, President of the Republic, Head of State, for their participation in the success of this organisation.

H.E. Mrs Minister Delegate, please convey to His Excellency the President of the Republic the Community's gratitude for his commitment to climate issues. The gradual emergence of the climate economy in the Democratic Republic of Congo perfectly illustrates this.

We would also like to congratulate ECCAS ministers who travelled to Kinshasa to raise the political profile of these meetings.

Finally, our congratulations go to our two co-facilitators as well as all experts from our Member States, Sub-Regional Organisations, civil society, the private sector and the scientific community from all over Central Africa and beyond who made it to Kinshasa.

H.E. Mrs Minister Delegate; Ladies and Gentlemen;

Based on reports from the seven thematic workshops, we can identify seven main regional programmes as products or deliverables of this 20th Meeting of the Parties of the CBFP, aimed at finding solutions to problems raised by participants of these workshops. These programmes go as follows:

- Regional Programme for the Consolidation of the Network of Protected Areas in Central Africa
- Regional Programme for Efficient and Sustainable Land-use Planning
- Regional Programme for Value Chain Development
- Regional Programme for the Development of innovative funding mechanisms
- Regional Programme for the Development of Eco-security or Regional Development Programme for the Fight against Environmental Crime
- Programme for Cooperation Development, Scientific and Academic Dialogue
- Regional programme for the continuation of the institutional and organisational reform of the Environment and Forestry Sector

**In addition to these regional programmes, whose management and governance coordination will be ensured by the Commission of the Community at regional level and by States at national and local level with the technical support of CBFP partners; at least four others should be added so that each of the eleven States is leader in order to reinforce the spirit of integration, solidarity and responsibility. These four programmes concern youths, women, indigenous peoples, parliamentarians and the private sector, who all made it to Kinshasa.**

**Referring to regional programmes, instead of long lists of recommendations as in the past, the Commission of the Community wishes to clearly express an example of the change expected throughout the sub-region in the conduct and management of sub-regional meetings, including the meetings of the parties of the CBFP.**

**Together, we are going to finalise the design and formulation of these programmes, using only the detailed reports from the corresponding thematic workshops. The Commission of the Community will spare no effort to ensure the success of this work with the leadership of the African Development Bank and the Development Bank of African States as well as Technical and Financial Partners, members of the CBFP.**

**In order to give more political and diplomatic value to these programmes, we will forward this list to the Community's statutory bodies for adoption and triggering of the resource mobilisation process.**

**With this politico-technical innovation, we are convinced that the transition from the CBFP of 2002 (date of creation) to the CBFP of 2016 (date of 1st reform) and that of 2023 (advent of the co-facilitation of TFPs and member states of the Congo Basin), we will gradually begin to see the CBFP emerge, a crossroads of experience and expertise that is geographically and culturally diverse, which we want to see, in line with the dynamics of the implementation of the institutional and organisational reform ongoing in the environment/forestry sector in the sub-region.**

**The legal issue concerning relations between the community and the Technical and Financial Partners still needs to be quickly solved, as suggested by the Ministers of ECCAS Member States at the meeting of the Board of Directors and the Strategic Dialogue.**

**As such, the CBFP experience, a platform for relations between the Community and its technical and financial partners in the environment/forestry sector, could be a source of inspiration for other integration areas, such as infrastructure, agriculture, extractive resources and industry, as well as crafts and development.**

**Thank you,**