

**20th Meeting of the Parties (MOP20) of the CBFP in Kinshasa,
Democratic Republic of Congo, from 3-6 June 2024**

A new finance mechanism for the protection of high integrity forests throughout the tropics

Organization	
Organization	WCS – Wildlife Conservation Society
Registration contact (name, e-mail, phone/WhatsApp)	Louis-Bernard CHETEU – Cell : +243 999 981 660 (WA) lbcheteu@wcs.org
Speakers contact (nom, e-mail, phone/WhatsApp)	-Daniel ZARIN - Cell : [+1-202-731-7411] dzarin@wcs.org

Content	
Theme (Thematic workshop 4: Accelerating the development of innovative financing mechanisms)	A new finance mechanism for the protection of high integrity forests throughout the tropics
Description	<p>OBJECTIVES</p> <p>To present the WCS High Integrity Forest Investment Initiative (HIFOR), a payment for ecosystem services program to incentivize the maintenance of climate regulation and biodiversity conservation by forest stewards, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIFOR pilot development initiated in Republic of Congo • Assessment of potential and priorities for HIFOR implementation initiated in the Congo Basin <p>GENERAL CONCEPT / FORMAT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WCS Congo will present HIFOR and introduce the Republic of Congo Pilot and the Congo Basin assessment project. 2. A governmental perspective on HIFOR will be provided by the Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Republic of Congo HIFOR Pilot Project. 3. Moderated Q & A / Discussion <p>THEMATIC SUMMARY</p> <p>High integrity tropical forests are among the least degraded and most biodiverse ecosystems on Earth. They remove approximately 1.8 billion tons of CO₂ per year (net) from the atmosphere and store this carbon in their trunks, branches, and roots. These annual removals represent a critical climate cooling service that is largely overlooked or taken for granted. In addition, high integrity tropical forests play an essential role in regulating climate by exchanging moisture and energy between the land and the atmosphere, leading to a further cooling effect. Without this “natural climate infrastructure” the world would already exceed the goal of the Paris Agreement to keep average global warming below</p>

	<p>1.5°C degrees above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century.</p> <p>At its core, the HIFOR initiative embodies a payment for environmental services to the stewards of high biodiversity tropical forests. The climate regulation service of CO₂ absorption is the proxy measure for climate regulation and is calculated as an annual average (tons of CO₂ absorption per year) based on the estimation of forest biomass over a decade. An investor or purchaser of HIFOR units may make beyond value chain mitigation claims with respect to climate, consistent with recent guidance from the Science Based Targets Initiative. Contributory biodiversity claims are linked to the biodiversity status of high integrity tropical forests at the ecosystem level. No compensatory “offset” claims are associated with HIFOR.</p> <p>Through the creation of an investable unit representing climate regulation and biodiversity conservation services, the HIFOR Initiative seeks to (1) maintain critical “natural climate infrastructure” and (2) protect biodiversity, while (3) unlocking finance to incentivize developing country governments and Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) to protect their high-integrity forests while developing sustainable, low-carbon rural economies and livelihoods. To ensure efficient use of resources, finance is contingent on maintaining forest protection and long-term conservation commitments.</p> <p>For additional information visit: https://www.wcs.org/our-work/climate-change/forests-and-climate-change/hifor</p>
<p>Speakers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Daniel Zarin, Executive Director, Forests & Climate Change WCS/New York - Rittl, Carlos, Director for Public Policy WCS/Allemagne -Louis Bernard Cheteu, Senior Climate and Biodiversity Policy Advisor, WCS – Congo/Brazzaville -Sophie Dirou, Forest Advisor, WCS – Central Africa Region/Kigali -Jean Bosco Nganongo, Director General of the Congolese Wildlife and Protected Areas Agency (ACFAP)/Ministry of Forest Economy (MEF), Republic of Congo and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the HIFOR Pilot in Republic of Congo -Jonas Kemajou, TRIDOM Landscape Financing Manager, WWF-Cameroon -Tabuna Honore, ECCAS Commissioner for the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development/Gabon - Jean Joel Loumeto, Professor of Ecology/Lecturer/Researcher, Marien Ngouabi University - Brazzaville (Congo)
<p>Programme</p>	<p>8:30-9:30: Moderator for the session /Introductions & Session Opening: Sophie Dirou, Forest Advisor, WCS – Central Africa Region/Kigali</p> <p>(1) HIFOR Initiative global overview (15 min): Dr Daniel Zarin, Executive Director Forests & Climate Change, WCS</p> <p>(2) Louis Bernard Cheteu, Senior Climate and Biodiversity Policy Advisor, WCS – Congo/Brazzaville providing an overview of the plan for the NNNP pilot (10min)</p> <p>(3) Comments from panel members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Tabuna Honore, ECCAS Commissioner for the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development/Gabon (5 min) - Mr. Jean Bosco Nganongo, Director General of the Congolese Wildlife and Protected Areas Agency (ACFAP)/Ministry of Forest Economy (MEF), Republic of

	<p>Congo and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the HIFOR Pilot in Republic of Congo (5 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Jonas Kemajou, TRIDOM Landscape Financing Manager, WWF-Cameroon (5 min) - Prof. Jean Joel Loumeto, Lecturer-Researcher, Marien Ngouabi University - Brazzaville (Congo) (5 min) <p>(4) Questions and Answers from the attendees. (15 min)</p>
Targeted audience	50 people, including country delegations, technical experts, and civil society organizations
Preferred Date/Time	(4 June 2024): from 8:30-9:30 (1 hour) Pullman hotel; Congo room 3
Translation requirement mode	Hybrid
Costs for parallel event organisers	Catering, translation, and interpretation costs are the responsibility of the WCS

EXAMPLE