



27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

COMIFAC-ECCAS Initiatives Pavilion

Mon., 6. Nov. 2022 – Fri., 18. Nov. 2022.

Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Call for proposals of side events for the “COMIFAC-ECCAS Initiatives Pavilion”

The Central African forests in the Congo Basin can help to advance efforts to address common issues including climate change, biodiversity preservation, and landscape restoration through the use of nature-based solutions...

Moving forward with the "Fair Deal" for the protection of the Central African forests in the Congo Basin between the international community and the Central African countries, embodied in the "Declaration of commitment of the COMIFAC Member States to the Central African forests and call for equitable financing"

The Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in close collaboration with the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) and the GIZ Program to support COMIFAC is pleased to launch **a call for proposals** to host side events at the **“COMIFAC-ECCAS Initiatives Pavilion”** during the 27th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 27) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from **6 to 18 November 2022**. It will be a space for open interaction and communication.

In line with the COMIFAC convergence plan, the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals, and the CBFP Facilitation Roadmap of the Federal Republic of Germany, the **“COMIFAC-ECCAS Initiatives Pavilion”** will be a hub, a hotspot of events focusing on the Central African forests in the Congo Basin, a networking space for participants from the political, scientific and practical communities and a discussion forum for stakeholders and potential partners of the Congo Basin, including the eleven COMIFAC member countries and CBFP members, **COP 27** delegates as well as a centre for exchanging ideas.

The **“COMIFAC-ECCAS Initiatives Pavilion”** will provide all COP 27 participants with comprehensive information on the Congo Basin and its surroundings as a nature-based climate solution.

The "COMIFAC-ECCAS Initiatives Pavilion" is an opportunity to highlight Central Africa's political, diplomatic, practical, research and innovation experience during **COP 27**.

This life-sized depiction of the CBFP in honour of its 20th anniversary, as seen at the side events, reflects increasing international recognition of the significance of the Congo Basin, its role in the fight against climate change, capacity to absorb much more CO₂ than the Amazon,



peatlands, and importance as a major global reserve not only of soil carbon but also endemic biodiversity and mineral resources.

In order to frame the discussions and conclusions of COP27 in line with the priorities of the Central African Congo Basin, the "**COMIFAC-ECCAS Initiatives Pavilion**" will highlight the connections between climate change, biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management, and sustainable development in the Central African sub-region.

All events held in the "**COMIFAC-ECCAS Initiatives Pavilion**" are intended to promote, achieve, and obtain the proposed "Fair Deal" between the international community and the Congo Basin / Central African countries for the Central African forests in the Congo Basin and to act on the "Declaration of Commitment of the COMIFAC Member States to the Central African forests and call for equitable financing" in an effort to promote equitable sharing of climate finance in the Congo Basin.

Priorities and focus areas of the “COMIFAC-ECCAS Initiatives Pavilion”

The Pavilion’s strategic and operational priorities in terms of nature-based solutions will be presented and discussed during high-level events, thematic and networking sessions, Country Days, youth, women, local and indigenous peoples’ Days and exhibitions around the "Declaration of Commitment of the COMIFAC Member States to the Central African forests and call for equitable financing".

Thus, a wide range of side events will be held at the Pavilion to foster engagement, share experiences by facilitating dialogue between sectors and stakeholders and promote collaboration for immediate action on the Congo Basin to move forward in key thematic areas.

1. High-level visits;
2. High-level bilateral VIP meetings between the Central African countries and donors (High-level political dialogue events).
3. Thematic sessions, side events - “Side Events”
4. COMIFAC Country Days (Each country in the COMIFAC region will be allotted two 1h30min slots on a specific day).
5. Exhibition sessions for networking, showcasing success stories as well as innovative results in Central Africa.
6. Film projections.
7. Launching events - For announcements from partners, launch of initiatives, release of study reports and main reports
8. Congo Basin Stakeholders Voice : Stakeholder days will be held : Youth Day, Women's Day, Local and Indigenous Peoples’ Days: Will each have a 1h30 time slot on a specific day.

Thus, the purpose of all these side events held at the Pavilion is to foster engagement, share experiences by facilitating dialogue between the sectors and stakeholders and promote



collaboration for immediate action on the Congo Basin to move forward in key thematic areas identified below. The Pavilion events encourage multi-sector, multi-stakeholder dialogue and emphasize inclusive networking and participation of audiences such as party delegates, observers, scientists, business, civil society, indigenous groups, women and youth and other participants.

A major challenge for the Pavilion will be raising the profile of the Congo Basin before the general public by highlighting its important role in balancing the climate.

Thematic areas for proposals

The proposed side events should cover the following key thematic areas:

1. “ Fair Deal “: Good governance of Central African forests and equitable financing: Finance and Governance
2. Implementation of NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) in Central Africa
3. “Loss and damage” (refers to damage and loss caused by climate change, more extreme weather events, rising sea levels or increasingly frequent droughts).
4. Adapting to the effects of climate change
5. Public financing, private financing, Philanthropy
6. Intersectoral coordination and environmental initiatives in Central Africa: Striking a balance between mitigation and adaptation
7. Climate change mitigation - Energy transitions, wood energies, renewable energies - Transparency and accounting mechanisms - Technology transfer - Low Emission Development (LED) - Transition to carbon neutrality - Pay for results
8. Landscape Restoration – Bonn Challenge – AFR100 in Central Africa - Reforestation
9. Post 2020 Ambition (30x30) – biodiversity conservation – cross-border protected areas including transhumance
10. Sustainable Management – Forest Governance – Economy, Growth and Industrialization
11. Climate Change Adaptation Measures - National Adaptation Action Programs (NAPA); National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

Pavilion’s challenges and expected results:

The COMIFAC-ECCAS Pavilion is expected to host over four (4) high-level political events, over fifty (50) 90-minute thematic events, including in the form of collaborative workshops, discussion podiums, and group meetings, networking sessions as part of the exhibitions, high-level political bilateral meetings, interaction and collaboration spaces for networking, dialogue, interactive exhibition space of the Congo Basin community, especially those providing data-supported examples of the Congo Basin’s contribution to urgent action against global climate change.



Responding to the call for proposals

*COMIFAC, ECCAS and its partners gathered within the CBFP hereby launch a call for proposals to host side events lasting **no more than 90 minutes** under the « **COMIFAC-ECCAS Initiatives Pavilion** », at the COP27 venue from **6 to 18 November 2022**.*

The side events are intended to give participants the chance to identify and discuss pressing topics, essential concepts relevant to the climate change negotiating process, as well as pressing deadlines and real challenges related to climate change and the development of the Congo Basin. Discussions that bring together the public and private sectors to facilitate comparative, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional exchanges on issues relating to climate change and Central Africa's development are especially encouraged.

The following guidelines are offered, however there is no set format for proposals. Applications should be submitted before **24 October 2022**.

The submissions will be reviewed by a technical committee comprising members of the organizing committee based on the following criteria, factoring in balanced coverage of thematic areas. The committee's decision is final. Applicants whose proposals are selected will be contacted on **30 October 2022**.

Selection criteria

The following criteria will be used to select side events:

- Relevance to Central Africa (20)
- Relevance to COP 27 (i.e., relevance to Stream topics, CBFP MOP 19 in light of current negotiating themes) (10)
- Well-structured proposal with a number (4 or 5) of inter-related topics/key issues to be addressed or projects/interventions to be discussed (10)
- Clear goals and outcomes (10)
- Potential for producing supporting publications - before / after the event (please provide details - blogs to provide implementation guidelines, technical papers or briefing notes to explain concepts before or after the event are encouraged) (10)
- Speakers identified and availability confirmed (10)
- Speakers from diverse backgrounds/representing a variety of stakeholders - e.g., African and non-African parties, donors, consultants, private sector, INGOs and civil society, ... (10).
- Backup arrangements in the event of unavailability of a speaker(s) (5)
- Collaboration between institutions to host side events (5)
- Side events are clearly aligned with one or two thematic areas of the Pavilion (5).
- Slides to be made available for download (please confirm) (5)



No one speaker should speak for more than 30 minutes and the Technical Committee welcomes events that include a panel of speakers / a Panellist, a moderator / rapporteur and make room for questions from the audience.

Presentations may be of a technical or political nature and may highlight the work of participating organizations but should not be "publicity stunts".

Two or more organizations can get together to present a side event proposal.

Expenses

The following conditions and/or expenses should be considered when planning events :

- Free for Partners that are Sponsors of the Pavilion
- Free for COMIFAC member countries and civil society actors. However, voluntary contributions are welcome.
- For partners who wish to put on an event lasting 1h 30min, a minimum commitment of 1000 Euros is required. The amount of this contribution will depend on how many events last one hour and thirty minutes. The contribution, which must be sent to COMIFAC in exchange for a receipt, will be used to partially cover the Pavilion's building and equipment costs. Meal expenses are not included.

Successful candidates will also be encouraged to provide drinks or buffets at their events. If you are interested in this option, please fill out the appropriate section of the application form.

In addition to side events, the organizing committee also welcomes submissions for exhibitions, films, or any other activity that is relevant to the COMIFAC Congo Basin Initiatives Pavilion. A poster, a video or PowerPoint presentation, or a networking event can be entered as an exhibition. The Communications Committee will be in touch with interested parties in due course. If you are interested in this option, please fill out the appropriate section of the application form.

Terms and conditions

The CBFP organizing committee will make every effort to accommodate scheduling requests, but offers no guarantees and reserves the right to change the schedule of events.

Gaining access to CoP 27 and the meeting venue will be the sole responsibility of the participants and their speakers (they must be registered for CoP 27). The organizing committee does not have authority to grant or secure access to the venue.

Participants will be responsible for all their own expenses.

Organizers of selected events are required to report to the office of the **"COMIFAC-ECCAS Initiatives Pavilion" Pavilion** and meet the side events coordinator no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the side event in order to:



1. Help prepare and collect engraved or blank nameplates for the speakers; and
2. Submit copies of their speakers' PowerPoint presentations on a USB flash drive. Presentations may also be sent ahead of time by email.

All the presentations will be published on the web pages of COMIFAC and the CBFP.

Organizers must see to it that all their speakers and presenters are informed of the venue and start time. If speakers become unavailable, the organizers will be responsible for providing substitute speakers.

Organizers may distribute handouts and other material related to their side event in the side event room immediately prior to and during the event, but must clear the handouts from the side event room once the event ends to make way for the next event. Organizers may distribute handouts and materials on the tables outside the side event room on the day of their event.

Papers and material left on tables outside the side event rooms may be cleaned out at the end of each day.

For speakers announced beforehand, the organizing committee will provide nameplates; speakers who were not announced will be given blank sheets to be filled out manually.

The side events room in the "COMIFAC-ECCAS Initiatives Pavilion", will be equipped with at least 4 or 5 chairs and a lectern, tables, fixed and mobile microphones as well as PowerPoint presentation devices.

The organizers will have to leave the room as it is without changing the layout.

The CBFP Organizing Committee may record the sessions on video, audio, or both, as well as take pictures and make the recordings public. They may also authorize third parties to do the same.

We look forward to receiving your high-quality proposals.

The Organizing Committee