



**Congo Basin Forest Partnership
Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany (2020-2021)
Monitoring the N'Djamena Declaration in the context of Covid-19**

**Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin Programme
Support project for the Sena Oura - Bouba Ndjida Binational Complex (GIZ BSB Yamoussa
2)**

**Country Expert Meeting for developing Country Investment Plans on Transhumance, Zoonoses,
Transboundary LAB, Security and Sustainable Development
12 to 15 July 2021, Douala, Cameroon**

DRAFT0

I. BACKGROUND

The Declaration on transboundary transhumance was enacted as part of a collaboration between the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and the Republic of Chad during the International Conference held in N'Djamena from 23 to 25 January 2019. The Conference gathered Ministers of Defence, Forests / Protected Areas, Environment and Livestock from eight countries, close to 225 experts and fifty senior officials from regional / sub-regional institutions and partners in technical and financial cooperation.

The N'Djamena Declaration addresses the need to build an appropriate framework for collaboration on transboundary transhumance at regional level, integrating issues of security, protected area management and increasing ecosystem degradation owing to climate change. It underlines the need for ownership of peaceful management of transboundary transhumance that is consistent with joint efforts to support actors of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The Declaration incorporates issues relating to security and natural resource management and advocates for an innovative multi-sector transboundary approach.

Through the Declaration, States located North of the Congo Basin, neighbouring Sahel countries and regional organizations have committed to a common approach to environmental protection, agriculture, livestock rearing and security. It also discusses the adverse effects of endemic neo-pastoralism on biodiversity and forest conservation in the Congo Basin. It further advocates for peaceful transhumance across the three geographical blocs as a means of preventing, mitigating and resolving transhumance-related conflicts, especially those involving pastoralists and farmers.

Below are the three geographical blocs established to drive transboundary collaboration, facilitated by the Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership:

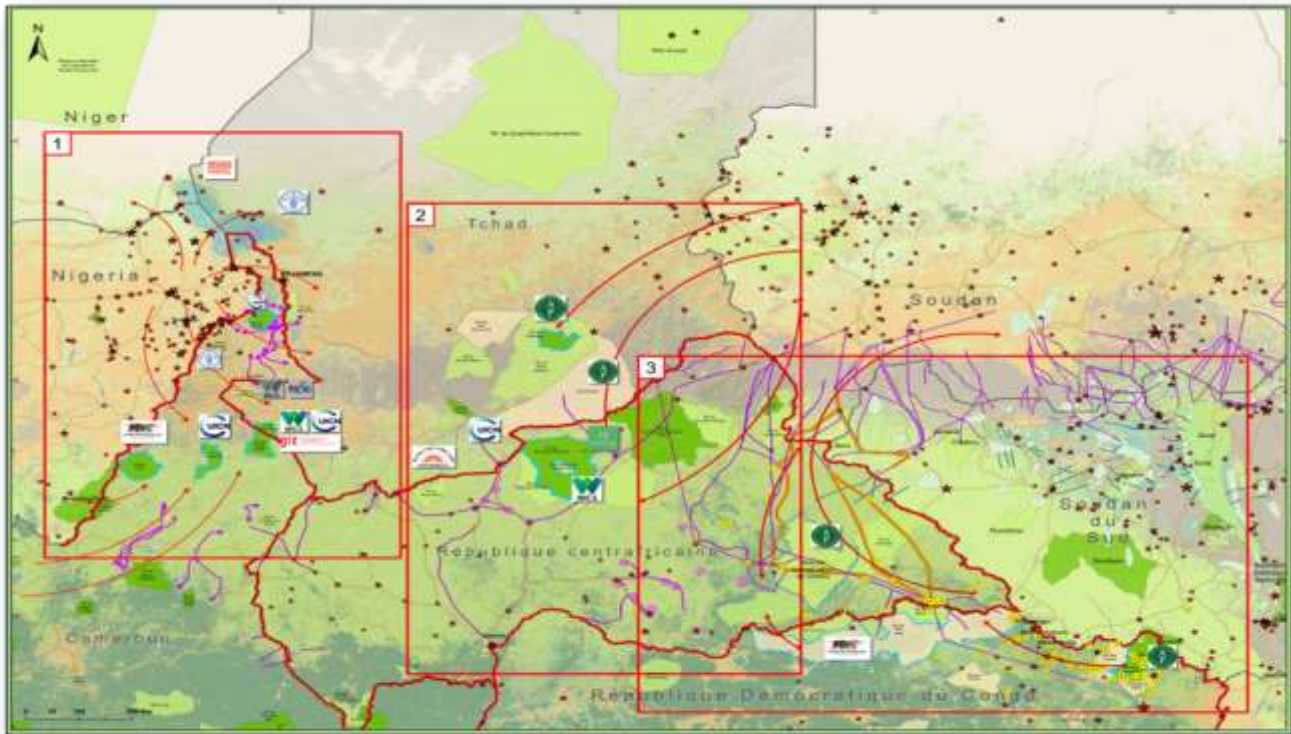
- ✓ **West geographical bloc (West Bloc)** covers the territory encompassing North-Eastern Nigeria, Northern and Eastern Cameroon, South-Western Cameroon, South-Western Chad and North-Western CAR.
- ✓ **Centre geographical bloc (Centre Bloc)** covers the territories encompassing the protected areas of South-Eastern Chad, North-Eastern CAR and South-Western Sudan.
- ✓ **East geographical bloc (East Bloc)** covers the territories encompassing the conservation areas of South-Eastern CAR, the protected areas of Western South Sudan and those of North-Eastern DRC.

Key aspects of the logical monitoring framework for the Declaration are outlined below:

- **Component 1: Legal framework for cooperation between the States**

Outcome 1: A clear and specific bilateral legal framework enables the security, police and judicial agencies of the States dealing with transboundary protected areas to work together to combat and crack down on unlawful practices.

Visual map of the three geographical blocs



Map 1 the three emerging geographical blocs for Security-Transboundary LAB and regulating transhumance, OFAC 2018

- **Component 2: Anti-poaching strategy in protected areas**

Outcome 2: “Anti-poaching strategies are effectively implemented by transboundary protected area managers based on the functional landscapes and ecosystems approach, in line with the provisions of transboundary agreements and operational technical protocols”.

- **Component 3: Managing transhumance.**

Outcome 3: “Transhumance activities are contemplated in the framework of conservation of protected areas and their functional landscapes/ecosystems to ensure that they yield benefits for all and help build social cohesion and foster local development and biodiversity conservation”.

- **Component 4: Consolidating Peace and Security.**

Outcome 4: “Actions contributing towards peace building and consolidation are taken into account to enable a conducive security environment for managing protected areas, transhumance and local development initiatives”.

- **Component 5: Balancing Human Health and Biodiversity Conservation/ Zoonoses and Covid-19.**

Outcome 5: “The risk of human-animal-human contamination by pathogenic germs transmitted by wildlife is diminished thanks to efforts made to control relationships between humans and nature with potential health consequences such as the COVID-19 Pandemic and EBOLA outbreaks”

- **Component 6: Communication and advocacy.**

Outcome 6: The strategy for information/communication on protected areas in the priority bloc concerned is linked up with a regional concerted COM strategy that enhances the value of transboundary protected areas in Central Africa in the eyes of national /international public opinion and relevant global initiatives.

The January 2019 N'Djamena Declaration was followed in May 2019 by negotiations on a transboundary agreement between South Sudan and the DRC. **In September 2019:** Chad and the CAR organized a sub-regional consultation on peaceful transboundary transhumance in the Lake Chad Basin (Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and the Central African Republic). **In November 2019:** a milestone was reached with the signing of two specific protocols for bi- and (tri) partite transboundary agreements on the fight against poaching and eco-development between Cameroon, Chad and the CAR.

In the same vein, the **high-level expert conference (16-17 December 2019)** with the countries concerned, brought together close to 150 participants. The meeting resulted in the adoption by the 7 neighbouring countries of the Sahel region and regional organizations concerned, of a **guide - programmatic logical framework** for each geographical bloc to effectively monitor transhumant movements.

The Douala Conference held in December 2019 as a follow-up to the Ndjamen Conference, provided a forum for effectively taking stock of transboundary actions conducted in connection with the N'Djamena declaration, notably the holding on 17 December 2019 of the first sessions of the Supervision and Arbitration (CBSA) Committees on the Binational Agreement (BSB Yamoussa) between Cameroon and Chad and the N'Djamena Tripartite LAB Agreement (AT-LAB of N'Djamena) between Cameroon, the CAR and Chad¹. The sessions preceded the first ministerial consultations between the DRC and the CAR on a transboundary agreement between the DRC and the CAR (a ministerial level meeting).

Still as part of the implementation of the recommendations of the December 2019 Douala conference, the Co-leaders of the Geographical Blocs worked from **May to September 2020**, with the CBFP playing a coordinating role, to develop **a three-year programmatic and budgeted roadmap** and a **political and diplomatic action sheet** for each bloc in order to strengthen advocacy at the highest levels within the States. The three geographical blocs' roadmaps for implementing the N'Djamena Declaration were developed in conjunction with State partners and regional and sub-regional organizations, led by: GIZ BSB Yamoussa for the West Bloc, WCS for the Centre Bloc and APN for the East Bloc. The roadmaps are structured around the five expected outcomes of the N'Djamena Declaration outlined in the above-mentioned programmatic logical framework.

The activities featured in the roadmaps are geared towards supporting transboundary agreements, establishing a regional system for monitoring and regulating transhumant movements, promoting integrated and sustainable land use planning for the sub-region's protected areas, strengthening the fight against poaching while promoting alternative income-generating activities, community development in connection with strategies and mechanisms for peaceful management of transhumance-related conflicts.

As part of the implementation of these roadmaps, specific actions have been proposed for managing transboundary transhumance and zoonoses, notably the "One Health" concept which is a hot topic. These steps are part of the Facilitation's list of political and diplomatic actions. Furthermore, the German Cooperation through the GIZ Support Project for the BSB YAMOOUSSA Complex (Chad-Cameroon) conducted a major study in the BSB YAMOOUSSA area in 2020, on transboundary transhumance. The study has enhanced understanding of the issues and challenges posed by this form of space management.

Ongoing raising of donor awareness: The CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany has continually conducted several advocacy efforts, first at high political levels in Germany and also by helping

¹ <https://archive.pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites/items/AT-LAB.html>

to organize a donors' meeting on transhumance.

July 2020: Regarding transhumance, there is a need to support communities' local resource management systems that have long addressed the competing demands of pastoralists and farmers for land use and water supply, but are increasingly disrupted by multifaceted conflicts, unbridled migratory flows and the effects / impacts of climate change. Greater involvement in the cross-cutting issue of transhumance would bring added value in addressing issues related to Climate - Biodiversity - Security. **Germany** had notably highlighted this issue as an important topic for the future **during its tenure as Chair of the United Nations Security Council.**

In October 2020, the Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany, based on the political and diplomatic action sheet of the geographical blocs, kicked off a series of high-level political and diplomatic outreaches in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cameroon with a high-level breakfast offered to the Heads of Mission of the countries concerned in the East and West Blocs. The high-level breakfast served as a briefing session for the Heads of Diplomatic Missions of countries concerned with the N'Djamena Declaration. The talks revolved around transboundary agreements on transboundary transhumance, the fight against transboundary poaching and effective management of transboundary protected areas in the countries concerned.

In December 2020 on the sidelines of the 8th CBFP Council Meeting, the CBFP Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany hosted a "Transhumance Day" on 29 December 2020. During the event, the Co-leaders of the geographical blocs presented the progress status of work done in their respective blocs, (a) Progress in implementing the N'Djamena Declaration within each geographical bloc; (b) The programmatic and budgetary roadmaps of the geographical blocs; and (c) The CBFP Facilitation's political and diplomatic action sheet.

Two noteworthy and major achievements of the "Transhumance Day" in the West Bloc include: the meeting of the Council of Ministers on the Yamoussa BSB transboundary agreements between Chad, the CAR and Cameroon on eco-development and eco-security, the fight against poaching in the Yamoussa BSB bi-national protected area complex, and the four-volume report of the study commissioned by the GIZ / BSB Yamoussa project on transhumance in the BSB Yamoussa Complex. The Transhumance Day held in Central Africa provided a forum for discussing issues relating to pastoralism / transhumance while analysing the security component, rising tensions and conflicts between farmers and pastoralists and appropriate solutions for effective community regulation of pastoralism. and transhumance in the ECCAS region.

Thus, these terms of reference have been prepared in view of the Country Expert Conference for developing Country Investment Plans to follow-up on the implementation of the Declaration of Ndjamena on Transhumance, Zoonoses, Transboundary LAB, peace, security and sustainable development. It will take place from 12 to 15 July 2021, in Douala, and will be jointly chaired by the Minister of Wildlife and Forestry of the Republic of Cameroon and the CBFP Facilitator of the Republic of Germany, in close collaboration with the regional institutions and co-leaders of geographical blocs. **The Douala expert conference is a preparatory step in view of N'Djamena 2 which will host the Heads of State Summit and the Donors' Round Table.**

II. OVERALL AIM OF THE COUNTRY EXPERT CONFERENCE

The Country Expert follow-up meeting on the N'Djamena Declaration will aim mainly to facilitate discussions on transhumance-related issues and in the same vein, COVID19's impact on biodiversity management and measures needed to anticipate future pandemics. In addition, it will capitalize the findings from the monitoring of the N'Djamena Declaration's implementation, which will serve as key ingredients for developing the countries' investment plans with special emphasis on transhumance and Zoonoses.

Specific objectives (SO) include:

- **SO1.** Taking stock of the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration and the recommendations of the Kinshasa Transhumance Day aimed at sustainable management of transboundary transhumance, biodiversity conservation and taking zoonoses into account in the health of communities and ecosystems;
- **SO2.** Developing country investment plans and a roadmap for institutional and organizational support of peaceful transhumance in Central Africa based on an outline;
- **SO3.** Adopting a draft country investment plan and integrated investment plan for transboundary actions in each geographical bloc prior to the High Level "N'Djamena 2" Conference which will host the Summit of Heads of State of countries concerned with the Declaration and the Donors' Round Table in December 2021;
- **SO4.** Discussing the "One Health" concept of taking zoonosis into account in monitoring the implementation of the Declaration within the framework of scientific and traditional and local knowledge and know-how on zoonoses.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **O1.** The implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration and the recommendations of the Kinshasa Transhumance Day aimed at promoting sustainable management of transboundary transhumance, biodiversity conservation and taking zoonoses into account in the health of communities and ecosystems is reviewed;
- **O2.** Country investment plans and a roadmap for institutional and organizational support of peaceful transhumance in Central Africa are developed based on an outline;
- **O3.** A draft country investment plan and integrated investment plan for transboundary actions are adopted in each geographical bloc prior to the High Level "N'Djamena 2" Conference which will host the Heads of State Summit of countries concerned with the Declaration and the Donors' Round Table in December 2021;
- **O4.** The "One Health" concept of taking zoonosis into account in monitoring the implementation of the Declaration within the framework of scientific and traditional and local knowledge and know-how on zoonoses is discussed.

IV. METHODOLOGY

To ensure the success of this preparatory stage in view of the High Level 'N'Djamena 2' Conference, consultations will be conducted within each country by the administrative sectors concerned and their partners. To this end, GIZ / BSB Yamoussa has appointed a consultant to prepare data collection instruments and an outline for developing Country Investment Programs. The consultant will guide the countries before and during the proceedings of the Country Expert Conference. The deliberations in the blocs will be done in plenary sessions and facilitated by the Bloc Leaders. In respect of COVID19-related restrictive and security measures, there will be no large plenary feedback session on the deliberations of the three blocs combined. However, each bloc will appoint representatives to provide feedback from all the blocs.

V. DATE AND VENUE

The Expert Meeting will take place from **12 to 15 July 2021 in Douala, Cameroon**. From 16 to 17 July 2021, a task force will work to consolidate the deliberations of the blocs, reviewing, preparing summary notes to be forwarded to the State administrations concerned and institutions represented at the Meeting of Country Experts. Practical arrangements will be announced in the logistic note. The meeting will be available online.

VI. TYPOLOGY OF PARTICIPANTS

The organizers of the Country Expert Conference expect at least hundred participants to attend in person and fifteen others to join via video conference. Each country will have four representatives of sector administrations concerned (Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, Defence / Security, Territorial Administration, Foreign Affairs, Forestry and Environment). Furthermore, regional and sub-regional organizations as well as Bloc leaders and Co-leaders will be represented.

VII. RUNNING THE MEETING

It is envisaged that the Expert Meeting will be jointly chaired by His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret Ndongo, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Acting Chairman of COMIFAC and the Honourable Dr. Christian RUCK, CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany. The meeting will be run by the Geographical Bloc Leaders, assisted by a team of two consultants ((GIZ BSB and CBFP); one moderator per bloc; three rapporteurs (one for each bloc).

VIII. Annexes

In preparation for the Country Expert Conference slated to hold in Douala from 12 to 15 July 2021, experts are called upon to hold prior meetings within their countries to define the broad strokes of their Country investment plans, taking into account State specificities and integrate them into the outline prepared for this purpose. The Partners' Leaders and Co-Leaders will support the process in each bloc. This section deals with preliminary consultations within the States and parallel sessions to be held during the Expert Conference.

A. Preliminary Country Consultations

The main aim is to ensure consistency between the logical framework, the roadmap and the political and diplomatic action sheet proposed by the leaders and partners of each bloc which will serve as the basis for developing country investment plans. Specific objectives include:

- Taking stock of the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration and bringing the outputs from the deliberations of each bloc into alignment with the logical framework and programmatic outline adopted at the December 2019 Expert Meeting held in Douala;
- Coming to agreement on priority transboundary actions to be developed in a bid to pool the efforts of States, partners, regional and international institutions and interested operators.
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B. Parallel sessions - Deliberations within the Blocs during the Country Expert Conference

The Douala Country Expert Conference will feature three parallel sessions held in three different rooms to allow the geographical blocs to work on their own dossiers and prepare the investment plan. The specific objectives of each bloc are outlined below:

Specific objective of the parallel session of the West Bloc

- Discuss the finalization and signing of agreements on concerted management of transboundary protected areas between Cameroon and Nigeria;
- Discuss the tripartite agreement on (Cameroon, CAR, Chad) on transboundary transhumance;
- Present the results of the CBFP-commissioned study on transhumance;
- Present the four-volume comprehensive study on transhumance in the BSB Yamoussa Complex and the Northern Cameroon GIZ BSB Yamoussa Project;

Specific objective of the parallel session of the East Bloc

- Continue negotiations among experts on draft transboundary agreements between the DRC, CAR and South Sudan to be adopted during a high-level ministerial conference;
- Present outputs from the monitoring of the N'Djamena Declaration produced by the Country Experts at the Douala 2019 meeting in order to develop consensus on the content and priorities of the East Bloc's country investment plan and the integrated investment plan for transboundary actions;

Specific objective of the parallel session of the Centre Bloc

- Present outputs from the monitoring of the N'Djamena Declaration produced by the Country Experts at the Douala 2019 meeting in order to develop consensus on the content and priorities of the Centre Bloc's country investment plan and the integrated investment plan for transboundary actions;
- Propose and adopt arguments to make the case for the CBFP's plans to hold a High-Level Conference of Ministers of AT-LAB N'Djamena (Tripartite Cooperation Agreement Relating to the Fight against Transboundary Poaching) extended to Sudan and South Sudan, with a view to extending transboundary agreements and specific protocols between Cameroon, CAR and Chad to both countries;
- Propose and adopt arguments to make the case for initiating a high-level consultation with a view to establishing a specific bilateral transboundary Chad-CAR agreement, covering (Southern Chad) Zakouma - Aouk and the protected areas of North-Eastern CAR (Bamingui Bangoran - Gribingui, Vassako-Bolo - Manova-Gounda).

C. WORKING DOCUMENTS

- TOR of the meeting including the provisional agenda;
- Briefing note on the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration
- Documents produced by the geographical blocs: Outlines, FDR, Action Sheet
- Note on Transhumance Day

D. COMPLIANCE WITH COVID 19 RELATED MEASURES

The Covid 19 pandemic has imposed health measures officially enacted by Cameroon and GIZ on the meeting organizers:

- Maintain stringent compliance with Covid 19 control provisions required by GIZ when implementing activities (compliance with safety instructions and adherence to officially enacted Covid-19 prevention measures);
- Circulate information on the pandemic and health measures to be observed during each session of the workshop;
- Purchase and provide participants with hand cleaning material, products and other protective gear (temperature checks at the doors of meeting rooms, availability of hand sanitizers and required mask-wearing);
- Respect social distancing measures in meeting rooms and places;
- Respect limits on number of passengers in vehicles (no more than 4 people, including the driver);

- Consider requesting assistance from local health services if need be;
- Use local communication channels for wide dissemination of information on the workshop and compliance with Covid-19 prevention measures prior to meetings where appropriate;
- Distribute information pamphlets on Covid-19;
- Consider any additional measures needed to ensure a safe environment for the workshop's proceedings.