



1 July 2016

**Re: Creation of the colleges of the CBFP.**

Dear CBFP Partners,

In my first letter to you of 1 June this year, I shared with you the main objectives that the EU Facilitation of the CBFP wishes to pursue in 2016-2017 to strengthen the Partnership, and in particular our proposals for reinforcing its governance structure. These proposals aim to improve the Partnership's effectiveness through the establishment of a CBFP Council composed of representatives of different colleges, which group together the main existing categories of partners within the CBFP (please refer to Attachment 2 to my letter of 1 June).

We plan to hold the first constitutive meeting of the CBFP Council back to back with the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties, which is planned to take place in Kigali, Rwanda. The EU Facilitation has proposed that the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Parties will be held during the period 21-26 November 2016, and hopes to receive confirmation of these dates by the Rwandan host authorities within the coming days. Given that this will be a constituting meeting of the CBFP Council, and taking into account the relatively short amount of time left between now and November, the agenda for this meeting is likely to be limited. The main objective will be to come together and take note of the successful formation of the seven colleges and the presence of two representatives of each college on the Council.

The aim of the present letter is to share with you the approach that the EU Facilitation proposes to take to set up these colleges of CBFP actors, as well as to establish their modalities for internal organisation and for representation on the CBFP Council.

**1. The colleges and their members**

We have proposed to group the CBFP partners into seven colleges, corresponding to the main categories of partners within the CBFP. In the diagram of the governance structure presented in Attachment I to this letter, the Facilitation has proposed an indicative list of members for each of the seven colleges, including every member of the Partnership. Of course, it goes without saying that while these are the Facilitation's proposals, any member can ask for their proposed membership of a certain college to be reconsidered if they consider it necessary.

As already announced in my letter of 1 June, the Facilitation considers that membership of a college should be reserved for CBFP members. We therefore encourage any actors that are not yet a CBFP member, but which already actively participate directly or indirectly in the Partnership (and in particular those organisations which are mentioned in the indicative list of college members in Attachment I to

this letter), to undertake as soon as possible the simple but necessary steps for becoming a member of CBFP (see the instructions and link “How to become member of the CBFP” on the Partnership’s website at the following address: <http://pfbcbcfp.org/members.html>).

## **2. Functioning of the colleges and relations between the colleges and the Council**

It is up to the members of each college to establish their own working methods and to agree on the modalities of their college for forming collective opinions and for designating the two representatives that will participate on behalf of their college in the work of the CBFP Council.

To facilitate this process, the EU Facilitation has asked two active members of each of the seven colleges to act as “catalysers” in this process (marked in red in Attachment 1). We have suggested that they make contact with the other members of the college to which they belong and engage in dialogue with them in order to ensure that their college adopts both principles for internal functioning of the college and modalities for identifying and selecting the two representatives for the CBFP Council.

In Attachment 2 to this letter, you will find a list of the catalysers within each college which the EU Facilitation has asked to play this role. I should like to underline that the catalysers that we have asked to do this are not in any way the “preselected” representatives of the colleges on the CBFP Council. The catalysers can propose a mechanism for selecting representatives to the Council and they can also present themselves as candidates for this role, but it is up to the members of each college to agree together on the way their college will designate its two representatives on the Council.

In principle, it is also up to each college to determine the duration of their representatives’ mandate. However, in order to ensure a fair and balanced representation of all CBFP members, and sufficient continuity in the work of the CBFP Council, the mandate of a college’s representatives should enable them to represent their college at no fewer than two Council meetings, but not more than five. Furthermore, the selection of the representatives should take into account the not insignificant investment of time and resources that will be required for this role. It will entail attending two CBFP Council meetings per year, which may be in Central Africa or Europe, in addition to animating dialogue within their college throughout the year. It is therefore important to ensure that the representatives chosen are capable of fully carrying out this role.

## **3. College coaches within the Facilitation team**

In order to support the catalysers in their efforts to facilitate discussion in the colleges thus established, the Facilitation has designated a “coach” from the EU Facilitation team for each of the seven colleges. The contact details of these coaches are also included in Attachment 2 to this letter.

The coaches are available not only to support the catalysers, but also to give advice to the other members of the respective college to help them organise themselves effectively as a college of actors for the benefit of our Partnership as a whole.

#### 4. Next steps

Over the coming days, the catalysers identified by the EU Facilitation will make contact with their fellow college members in order to begin discussions on the internal organisation of their college and the modalities they wish to favour for identifying and selecting the two representatives their college will send to the CBFP Council.

I invite you to respond positively to the calls that will soon be addressed to you by the catalysers of your respective colleges and to invest yourselves in the establishment of your colleges. I would really hope that all colleges will be able to designate representatives for the first constitutive meeting of the CBFP Council in November. It is very clear to us in the EU Facilitation team that the reinforcement of the governance of CBFP will only succeed if the formation of the colleges, which constitute the key building blocks of the Council, is successful. This is a key step in our joint efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of our Partnership and to ensure its long-term impact, working towards conservation and sustainable management of the forest ecosystems of Central Africa.

The EU Facilitation team, and in particular the coaches of your respective colleges, are available and ready to help you in this important collaborative effort. If you have particular views which you would like to share with me or with the “coach” of your respective college, it would be very good if you could do so before the end of this month.

Yours sincerely,



**Anders Henriksson**

European Union Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership,  
European Commission  
Brussels, Belgium



## Facilitation

- General facilitation of CBFP – Coordinates CBFP Council
- Represents the CBFP / lobbying
- Contributes to the organisation of Meetings of Partners
- Manages communication and information sharing tools

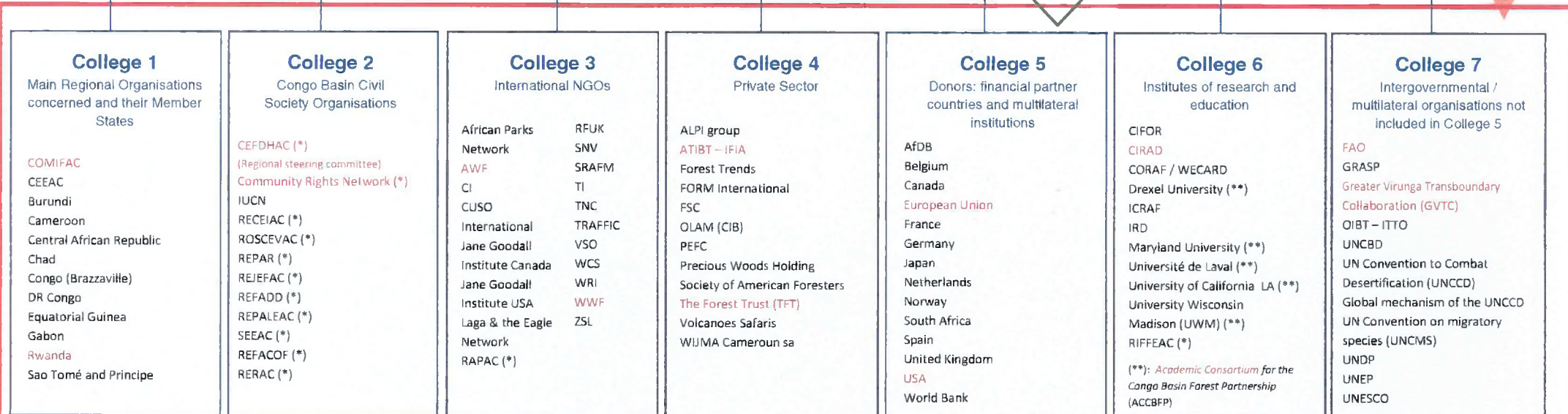


## Thematic activities

- Aligned with major priorities of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan
- *Streams / Cadres de Concertation Thématique (CCTs)*
- Linked with COMIFAC Working Groups and technical coordination meetings
- On going work, including presentation of results to partners and discussions during Annual Meetings of Parties

### CBFP Council (14 members + Facilitator)

Each college selects 2 representatives



(\*): not yet CBFP member

**Annual Meeting of Parties (78 members of CBFP)**

Attachment 2. Catalysers and coaches of the 7 CBFP colleges

<i>College 1. Main Regional Organisations concerned and their Member States</i>	
<i>Catalysers</i>	
COMIFAC Secretariat	Republic of Rwanda
<i>Coach of College 1</i> Maxime NZITA <span style="float: right;"><a href="mailto:maxime.nzita@pfb-cbfp.org">maxime.nzita@pfb-cbfp.org</a></span>	

<i>College 2. Congo Basin Civil Society Organisations</i>	
<i>Catalysers</i>	
CEFDHAC (CTR)	Community Rights Network
<i>Coach of College 2</i> Maxime NZITA <span style="float: right;"><a href="mailto:maxime.nzita@pfb-cbfp.org">maxime.nzita@pfb-cbfp.org</a></span>	

<i>College 3. International NGOs</i>	
<i>Catalysers</i>	
AWF	WWF
<i>Coach of College 3</i> Emmanuel HEUSE <span style="float: right;"><a href="mailto:emmanuel.heuse@agrecobel.be">emmanuel.heuse@agrecobel.be</a></span>	

<i>College 4. Private Sector</i>	
<i>Catalysers</i>	
ATIBT	TFT
<i>Coach of College 4</i> François BUSSON <span style="float: right;"><a href="mailto:Francois.BUSSON@ec.europa.eu">Francois.BUSSON@ec.europa.eu</a></span>	

<i>College 5. Donors: financial partner countries and multilateral institutions</i>	
<i>Catalysers</i>	
European Union	United States of America
<i>Coach of College 5</i> François BUSSON <span style="float: right;"><a href="mailto:Francois.BUSSON@ec.europa.eu">Francois.BUSSON@ec.europa.eu</a></span>	

<i>College 6. Institutes of research and education</i>	
<i>Catalysers</i>	
ACCBFP	CIRAD
<i>Coach of College 6</i> Richard EBA'A ATYI <span style="float: right;"><a href="mailto:richard.ebaa@agreco.be">richard.ebaa@agreco.be</a></span>	

<i>College 7. Intergovernmental / multilateral organisations not included in College 5</i>	
<i>Catalysers</i>	
FAO	Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration
<i>Coach of College 7</i> Dany POKEM <span style="float: right;"><a href="mailto:dany.pokem@pfbc-cbfp.org">dany.pokem@pfbc-cbfp.org</a></span>	