

**The CBFP Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany, Honorable Dr. Christian Ruck, Goodwill Ambassador of the COMIFAC Declaration, wishes you a happy holiday season 2021 and all the best for 2022.**



**Dear CBFP Partner,**

in this holiday season marking the end of 2021, I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to you. Your rich and various contributions and your proactive and dedicated involvement have enriched and enhanced the efficacy of our joint partnership. Our fruitful and close collaboration was an overwhelming success internationally and most tangibly during the CoP 26 in Glasgow, UK.

For the first time, tropical forests were at the centre of climate negotiations. For the first time the voice of the Congo Basin was heard. The much hoped for alliance on the "**Fair Deal**" has become a reality. Through the commitment of 11 countries, including my own, Germany, and the Bezos Foundation, to make available 1.5 billion US dollars from 2021 to 2025 for the protection of central Africa's forests in the Congo Basin, a remuneration has effectively begun.

This marks a historic first step towards the "**Fair Deal**" with which we intend to consolidate good forest governance in return for fair payments for the ecosystem services the Congo Basin forests provide to the planet. On the other hand, the economic and environmental value of the Congo Basin should be taken into account in the overall global climate budget.

We welcome the international visibility of the Congo Basin forests and countries and their confirmed inclusion in the agenda of international forest-related negotiations.

Our challenge now is not only to obtain more clarity on the modalities and mechanisms of each donor partner's funding in the Glasgow Commitment, but also to better coordinate their funding. This is to achieve a more effective division of labour between partners, and thus avoid duplication of responsibilities and efforts in the interventions while continuing the international mobilisation.

The year 2022 promises to be full of challenges and possibilities to further promote the **“Fair Deal”** and give prominence to the Congo Basin, especially during the EU-AU Summit (February 2021, Brussels), the first African Protected Areas Congress (March 2022, Kigali), the COP 15 on Biodiversity (May 2022, Kunming) and the World Forestry Congress (May 2022, Seoul). Our joint work and efforts in respect to the Fair Deal advocate for and mobilize payments and equitable financing for the ecosystem services of the planet's green lung on the one hand and on the other seek to ensure the protection and sustainable management of forests as part of the Fair Deal. I very much look forward to seeing you at the 19th Meeting of the Parties of the CBFP, planned in June 2022, so that together we can accelerate the implementation of the COMIFAC Declaration and the Glasgow Declaration of Congo Basin donors. The aim will be to move forward with the **“Fair Deal” towards** transformational change and a sustainable future for the Congo Basin forests and their peripheries, people, flora and fauna. At the 19th Meeting of the Parties of the CBFP, we intend to decode, appropriate and internalize the decisions of the 2021/2022 international events. For the end of the next year 2022, we intend to organize a conference to follow-up on the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration on transhumance and the need to guide regional transhumance dynamics by addressing security issues, wildlife management and the increasing degradation of ecosystems as a result of climate change.

**Dear Partners, I wish all of you a happy holiday season and all the best for 2022!**