



## **Congo Basin Forest Partnership**

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

#### **Congo Basin Sustainable Forest Management Program Support Project for the Sena Oura - Bouba Ndjida Binational Complex (GIZ BSB Yamoussa 2)**

Summary report on the proceedings of the Country Expert Follow-up meeting to the N'Djamena Conference to develop country investment plans geared towards Transboundary Transhumance, Zoonoses, the Fight against Transboundary Poaching, Security and Sustainable development between the Sahel and the Congo Basin held in Douala, Cameroon, from 12 to 15 July 2021.

The Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), the Republic of Cameroon and the leaders of the partners of the Geographical Blocs, jointly organized the Expert follow-up Meeting on the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration from 12 to 15 July 2021 in Douala, Cameroon. The meeting aimed to develop Country Investment Plans to deal with transhumance, zoonoses, transboundary anti-poaching (AML), security and sustainable development between the Sahel and Equatorial Africa. The gathering received financial support from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), technical support from the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ) through the GIZ BSB Yamoussa Project, leader of the West geographical and thematic bloc for the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration, whose Project Manager, Mr Hans-Jurgen Klein spared no effort in ensuring the success of the event.

Chaired by His Excellency Jules Doret NDONGO, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon, Acting President of COMIFAC, the Country Expert meeting was a huge success, with all eight countries concerned by the N'Djamena Declaration attending for the first time since the launch of the N'Djamena initiative, namely: Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, South Sudan and Chad. The sub-regional institutions enlisted to help the countries develop and implement their country investment plans also made a strong showing, with all of them taking part in the Country Expert meeting. They include: ECCAS, COMIFAC, CILSS, GABAC, IGAD, CEBEVIRHA, CBLT, OCFSA, the Climate Commission for the Sahel region. In addition, civil society and international NGOs took an active part in the Douala proceedings (ANI, APN, AWF, GIZ, KfW, NOE, RIOFAC, TRAFFIC, IUCN, WCS, WWF, UNESCO).

The meeting provided a forum for the participants to discuss issues relating to the strategic axes set out in the N'Djamena Declaration in particular, the legal framework for collaboration between States, the fight against transboundary poaching in the region covered by the N'Djamena Declaration, the topic of the sustainable and peaceful management of transhumance, peace consolidation and security, balancing human health and biodiversity conservation with special emphasis on zoonoses and Covid-19, the communication

component of actions geared towards implementing the Declaration, advocacy for diplomatic action and improving the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities.

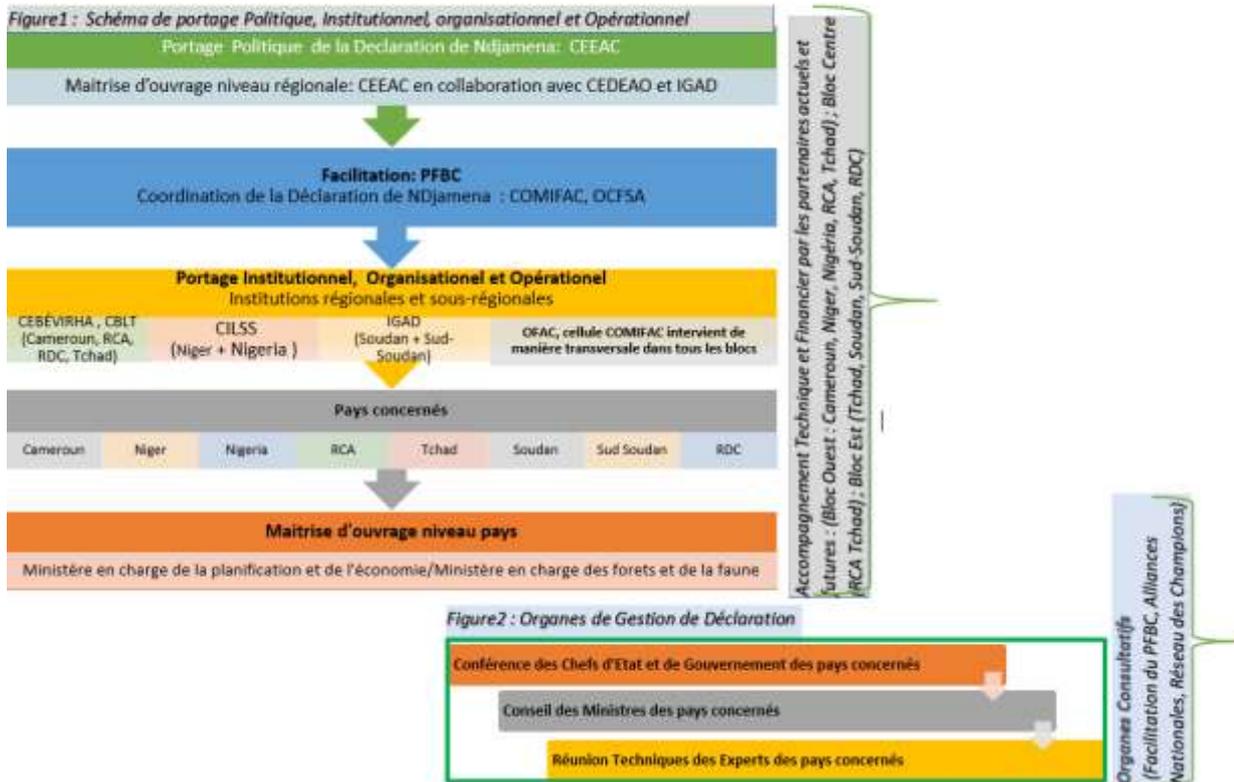
The country experts worked to consolidate the outputs from the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration produced to date for inclusion in the country investment plans. Thus, the country experts adopted all the products from the deliberations, notably:

1. the logical framework of the geographical blocs for monitoring the implementation of the Declaration;
2. the budgeted roadmap for the implementation of priority actions of the Declaration,
3. the Facilitation's political and diplomatic action sheet; and
4. the outline of the country investment plan broken down into six main axes:
  - i. a legal framework for collaboration between the States;
  - ii. an anti-poaching strategy for protected areas;
  - iii. sustainable and peaceful management of transhumance;
  - iv. peace building (conflict management);
  - v. biodiversity and zoonosis (covid-19);
  - vi. developing local and indigenous communities (culture and youth employment).

The Country Expert meeting made the following points: (1) Develop the main headings of the country investment plans and set up an intersectoral working group to pursue the reflection on investment plans by country, after the Douala Meeting; (2) Political, institutional and operational support for the N'Djamena Declaration; (3) recommendations made to the States for better ownership of the process and to strengthen communication with the institutions enlisted to help the countries develop and implement the Declaration; (4) Proposals submitted to the CBFP Facilitation on the coordination and technical support of partners and regional institutions in developing investment plans by country.

Regarding the mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration in the Sahel and Congo Basin region, the country experts presented a flowchart of political, institutional and operational support for the N'Djamena Declaration defining support from sub-regional institutions as follows:

1. West Africa: CILSS/CRSA supports Niger and Nigeria;
2. East Africa: IGAD supports Sudan and South Sudan;
3. Central Africa: CEBEVIRHA, CBLT support Cameroon, the CAR, DRC and Chad. In keeping with the principle of parallels with CILS / ECOWAS CRSA of West Africa, the CRSA - AC will come in to operationalize the N'Djamena Declaration alongside CEBEVIRHA and LCBC which will be guiding the Central African countries.
4. OFAC, a specialized unit of COMIFAC, will conduct cross-cutting activities in all the blocs. ECCAS will provide political support and ensure project management at sub-regional level. A roadmap for monitoring the finalization of country investment plans was adopted.



At the close of the deliberations, the country expert meeting formulated the following recommendations:

### 1. To the CBFP Facilitation

- i. that the CBFP Facilitation should work to raise the funds needed to implement the country investment plans and by the same token, the short-term operation of the institutions providing institutional, organizational and operational support for the Declaration;
- ii. that the CBFP Facilitation should advocate with the ECCAS for the Heads of State to endorse the N'Djamena Declaration prior to N'Djamena 2;
- iii. that the Facilitation should provide diplomatic and financial support to broaden and strengthen OCFSA's capacities to enable the organization to discharge its assigned mission of coordinating and providing operational support for the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration.

### 2. To ECCAS

- i. that ECCAS should consult with ECOWAS to endorse the N'Djamena Declaration and formalize the collaboration framework for concerted political guidance of the implementation of the Declaration in the member States of each Community.

The Meeting commended the leaders and co-leaders of the partners of the geographic blocs for their efforts and urged the technical and financial partners to continue supporting the implementation of the Declaration. They expressed their appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Cameroon for its hospitality and for allowing the meeting to take place. They also expressed gratitude to the financial and technical partners who had made the meeting possible, and to the German Government's Facilitation Consortium, for its multi-faceted support and urged it to continue supporting the implementation of the Douala recommendations.