



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)**

**Country Expert Meeting to develop Country Investment Plans on Transhumance,
Zoonoses, Transboundary LAB, Security and Sustainable Development between
the Sahel and the Congo Basin
12 to 15 July 2021, Douala, Cameroon**

Press Release of Expert follow-up meeting on the N'Djamena conference

On

**Developing country investment plans for Zoonoses,
Transhumance, the fight against Transboundary Poaching, security and sustainable
development between the Sahel and the Congo Basin**

Held in

Douala, Cameroon, from 12 - 15 July 2021.

1. 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 Blocks, 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 focused on developing 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 the financial support of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the technical support of the Federal Republic of Germany CBFP Facilitation and 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.
2. The meeting aimed chiefly to discuss issues related to the strategic axes of the N'Djamena Declaration, notably the legal framework for collaboration between the States, the Protected area anti-poaching strategy, peaceful and sustainable transhumance management, Consolidation of Peace and Security, Balancing Human Health and Biodiversity Conservation/ Zoonoses and Covid-19, Improving the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities, communication and advocacy. The meeting also focused on capitalizing the outputs from monitoring the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration, which are a key ingredient for developing the country investment plans.
3. Chaired by His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret NDONGO, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of the Republic of Cameroon, Acting President of COMIFAC, assisted by 1st Vice-President, Mr HAMISSOU HALILOU Malom Garba, Deputy Director of Wildlife, Hunting and Protected Areas of Niger, 2nd Vice-President Mr ADRAMANE Chaibo Hamid, Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas of Chad, 3rd Vice-President Mr WALIWA Nestor, Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas of the CAR, the meeting drew experts from various administrative sectors of the countries concerned with the N'Djamena Declaration, notably including representatives of the Ministries of Livestock, Agriculture, Defense / Security, Territorial administration, Foreign Affairs and Forestry / Environment. The countries concerned with the N'Djamena Declaration include: Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, South Sudan and Chad. Other attendees included regional organizations and technical and financial partners, notably: The regional and sub-regional organizations (ECCAS, COMIFAC, CILSS, GABAC, IGAD, CEBEVIRHA, CBLT, OCFSA, the Sahel Climate Commission/CCRS); Civil Society; international NGOs; multilateral organizations and other important actors. The country expert meeting was graced by Honourable Dr. Christian Ruck, Federal Republic of Germany CBFP Facilitator; Dr Honoré TABUNA, ECCAS Commissioner for the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development; Pastor Dr Cosma Wilungula Balongelwa, Director General of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN); Mr. MAHAMAT GUILLET Hemchi, Technical Advisor to the Chadian Presidency for Agriculture and Livestock; Executive and Permanent Secretaries of sub-regional organizations, senior representatives of Prime Ministries, Ministries of Defence, Security, Agriculture, Livestock, Animal Production, Foreign Affairs, Territorial Administration, Forest and Environment of the countries concerned.

Close to one hundred people attended in person while fifteen others joined virtually using a link provided to them.

The Country Experts' proceedings were structured around the following items:

- the Opening Ceremony;
- The experts' technical session
- Group work, in geographical blocs
- Formulating resolutions and recommendations
- Close of proceedings

I. OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony featured speeches from several public figures, namely:

- **Welcome address of the CBFP Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany delivered by Mr. Raymond MBITIKON, Co-facilitator on behalf of the Honorable Dr. Christian RUCK - Facilitator unable to attend. In his speech he underscored the CBFP's vision and missions which had gradually led to the adoption of the N'Djamena Declaration.**
- **Keynote address of OCFSA delivered by the Permanent Secretary Dr LINDJOURN, with the main expectation of providing Country Investment Plans (PIP) based on the results of monitoring conducted, a tool that is expected to promote fund raising to speed up the operationalization of the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration.**
- **Speech by the Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) delivered by Mr Japhet KASIMBU, who expanded on promoting collaboration and experience sharing between countries on the economic model of transhumance, sustainable and peaceful management of transhumance, challenges and impacts of pastoral activities on local and indigenous populations, investments needed to ensure sustainable development of the sector and the populations concerned, the issue of transboundary zoonoses and zoonotic diseases.**
- **Speech of the Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel - CILSS, Dr Aminata CORRERA emphasized the need to implement the N'Djamena Declaration on the ground for the benefit of local and indigenous communities and populations. She reiterated her institution's commitment to help seek suitable solutions to the challenges of transboundary transhumance between the Sahel and Equatorial regions.**
- **Keynote Address of the Economic Community of Central African States - ECCAS delivered by Dr TABUNA Honore, Commissioner for the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development, while recalling that transhumance and pastoralism are nothing new, he noted that owing to security situations, climate change and other forms of pressure resulting from the exploitation of natural resources and cohabitation between humans, transhumance faces increasing challenges, which should be an urgent concern for all sub-regional and governmental actors and institutions affected by the phenomenon.**
- **Opening speech by His Excellency Jules Doret NDONGO, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) of the Republic of Cameroon, Acting Chairman of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), who expressed the hope that the respective deliberations would lead to concrete proposals to help better prepare the N'Djamena 2 meeting which will host the Heads of State Summit and the Donors' round table.**

Following the string of speeches, the meeting adopted the agenda, and set up the bureau of the proceedings, made up of a:

- **Chair:** Cameroon;
- **1st Vice-President:** Niger; **2nd Vice-President:** Chad; **3rd Vice-President:** CAR
- **1st Rapporteur:** DRC; **2nd Rapporteur:** South Sudan; **3rd Rapporteur:** Nigeria; **4th Rapporteur:** Sudan
- **Technical support secretariat of the Meeting:** ECCAS, COMIFAC, OCFSA, IGAD, CCRS, CILSS, CEBEVIRHA, GABAC, IUCN.

II. EXPERTS' TECHNICAL SESSION

Technical presentations.

The experts' technical presentations revolved around the following:

- Presentation of geographical blocs on the RIOFAC project's monitoring of the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration,

- Status of implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration, outputs from the deliberations of the blocs and specific challenges of each bloc: Adoption of the outputs from the deliberations of the Geographical Blocs with reference to the recommendations of the last Expert meeting held in Douala in December 2019 and the Kinshasa Transhumance Day in December 2020,
- Presentation of the Central African protocol on transhumance and the findings of the information and awareness-raising workshop on preventing and resolving conflicts arising from pastoralism and transboundary transhumance in the ECCAS region,
- Feedback from the information and awareness-raising workshop on preventing and resolving conflicts arising from pastoralism and transboundary transhumance in the ECCAS region held in Kinshasa in the DRC from 23 to 25 June 2021,
- Presentation of CILSS on the methodological approach to developing a multi-year country investment plan in accordance with the logical framework for implementing the Ndjamen Declaration with a special focus on transhumance - example of supporting the process of developing multi-year action plans to boost the CNTs in three Sahelian countries of origin of transhumants (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger),
- The IGAD protocol on transhumance - Strategic investment program on transhumance, peace, security, free movement in the IGAD region - Promoting effective resilience investments: Lessons learned, opportunities for Central Africa,
- State of play of the draft protocol between IGAD and ECCAS on transhumance.
- Establishing an observation and support mechanism for transhumance in Central Africa (RIOFAC),
- The innovative approach to conflict prevention and resolution for sustainable and peaceful management of transhumance (APN),
- Experience of developing the Climate Investment Plan for the region (PIC-RS 2018-2030), and the Priority Program to Catalyze Climate Investment in the Sahel (PPCI 2020-2025): lessons learned and opportunities for Central Africa,
- Presentation of the Report on the dynamics and impacts of transhumance and neo-pastoralism on biodiversity, local communities and security in the Congo Basin and presentation of the Draft Outline for developing country investment plans.

Following the technical presentations, a round table was held on themes relating to experience gained in implementing the N'Djamena Declaration. The countries that shared their experiences included Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, South Sudan, Cameroon, the CAR, the DRC and Chad. The results of innovative programs were presented by TRAFFIC on AFRICA-TWIX / PAPECALF, AWF on Peaceful Management of Transhumance in Northern Cameroon. The CCRS, CILSS and IGAD shared their experiences in developing investment plans.

The feedback session on the dynamics and impacts of transhumance and neo-pastoralism on biodiversity, local communities and security in the Congo Basin followed by a presentation on the Draft Outline for developing Country investment plans, brought the technical presentations to a close.

Group work

The respective country experts assisted by the Partners were fanned out into each bloc by country to work on their respective Investment Plans, following the proposed Outline, and in line with the logical framework and roadmap adopted. The results from each country's deliberations were presented in plenary session. The country experts defined the following axes to be included in the country investment plans, notably:

- Establish national political and legal frameworks adapted to the management of transhumance dynamics;
- Develop master plans for land use management in the territories concerned taking into account transhumance, security, land use dynamics and mapping risk areas;
- Conduct studies at country level to assess the impacts of transhumance on security, biodiversity, well-being and the risk of zoonotic diseases emerging at the interface between the blocs concerned with the N'Djamena Declaration;

- Conduct discussions on the possibility of broad-based consultation with all stakeholders to set up an identification, alert and information-sharing system at all entry and exit points of the transhumance corridors;
- Establish a system to control the flow of small arms, wars and drugs between countries.

III. SHORT TERM OPERATIONAL ACTIONS

The country experts came up with three axes: **(1)** The actions proposed for each country deal mainly with ***Establishing an intersector working group to continue discussions on country investment plans***; **(2)** The actions proposed by the institutional, organizational, operational leaders and bloc leaders **on coordinating and assisting subregional institutions and technical and financial partners in developing country investment plans**; **(3)** Proposed actions to be submitted to the Facilitation geared towards ***strengthening with the institutions in view of future events***.

IV. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

At the close of the deliberations, the Country Experts made recommendations regarding the rest of their mission:

To the countries:

- Implement the roadmap produced by the Douala country expert meeting;
- The respective countries should finalize and take ownership of their country investment plans
- Prepare for the N'Djamena 2 meeting at country level by preparing a background paper that will inform strategic discussions with donors;
- Take the *One Health* Concept into account in sustainable management of transhumance and biodiversity conservation.
- Speed up the establishment, organization and operationalization of transboundary bi-national and tri-national anti-poaching brigades, including talks between the Governments of the Republic of Chad, the Republic of Cameroon and the Central African Republic with a view to extending the Chad-Cameroon-CAR Tripartite Cooperation Agreement to the Republic of Sudan.
- Finalize and sign agreements in the West Bloc on concerted management of transboundary protected areas between Cameroon and Nigeria.
- Speed up the signing in the East Bloc of transboundary agreements between the DRC, the CAR and South Sudan.
- Provide diplomatic and financial support for the extension of OCFSA in the other countries concerned with the Declaration (Sudan, South Sudan, the DRC, Niger, Nigeria).

To the PTFS

- The leaders, Co-leaders of the countries' technical and strategic partners should help finalize investment plans and mobilize human and technical, material and financial resources;
- Member countries should receive technical support in bringing the Declaration into alignment with international conventions (Rio Convention, Convention on Biodiversity, Convention on climate change) and forward-looking themes in order to access greater funding (Green Climate Fund, GEF, African Adaptation Funds, AFR100, Born challenge...);
- Countries should receive technical support on how to use tools that are best suited to dealing with the issues raised in the N'Djamena declaration (mapping, GIS, MEOR, etc.).

To civil society

- Engage CSOs in developing and implementing country investment plans

To the CBFP

- Support fund raising for short-term operations of institutions in charge of providing institutional, organizational and operational support and implementing country investment plans
- Provide diplomatic and financial support for advocacy to extend OCFSA in the other countries concerned with the Declaration (Sudan, South Sudan, the DRC, Niger, Nigeria).
- Conducting advocacy with regional institutions to enlist their backing, support at the level of their member countries.
- The CBFP Facilitation should hold a round table of donors on the sidelines of the "N'Djamena 2" Heads of State Summit on the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration.

To the sub-regional institutions

- Conduct advocacy and resource mobilization to finance investment plans at country and bloc level.
- Popularize the draft MoU between IGAD and ECCAS among ECCAS member countries and hold more consultations with these countries before validating the final document.
- Conduct the process of developing, preparing and implementing country investment plans as follows: CILSS (Niger, Nigeria); IGAD (Sudan, South Sudan); CEBÉVIRHA, CBLT (Cameroon, CAR, DRC, Chad).
- COMIFAC and OCFSA should organize with the support of the German CBFP Facilitation and the GIZ BSB Yamoussa Project the next country expert meeting to monitor the implementation of the N'Djaména Declaration, and more specifically to finalize country investment plans.
- ECCAS should work closely with IGAD and ECOWAS to host a conference of Ministers and a "N'Djamena 2" Heads of State and Government Summit on the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration.

V. CONCLUSION

At the close of the Douala meeting in Cameroon, the country experts monitoring the N'Djamena conference, took note of all the products from the deliberations of each geographical bloc for monitoring the implementation of the N'Djamena Declaration, namely:

- the logical framework,
- the budgeted roadmap,
- the political and diplomatic action sheet and,
- the outline for developing Country Investment Plans

The experts 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 meeting recommendations.

They also expressed gratitude to the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), which had made the meeting possible through the GIZ BSB Yamoussa project. They further thanked the CBFP Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany, for its multifaceted support and urged it to continue supporting the implementation of the Douala recommendations.

They thanked the Government of the Republic of Cameroon for its hospitality.

Done in Douala, on 15 July 2021

The participants