

SESSION 10: NEW PARTNER ACTIONS & INITIATIVES (Partial translation)

As received, in alphabetical order by CBFP Partner:

CANADA

Canada is a long-standing partner of the Congo Basin countries, contributing to their economic development and to strengthening their capacity to manage natural resources. Canada's support for the region is to stimulate sustainable economic growth, to promote food security and to ensure the future of children and youth. This support is also harmonized with the vision of the African Union of a united Africa, benefiting from a strong social and economic development, accountable public institutions and sustainable natural resources - a vision that can be achieved only by regional cooperation and integration.

Canadian contributions to the **Congo Basin Forest Fund**, managed by the African Development Bank, as well as the **Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)**, managed by the World Bank, are also part of Canada's commitment under the Copenhagen accords. Canada is also the 3rd largest contributor to the FCPF's Readiness Fund (\$40 million of \$360 million promised).

Initiatives supported by Canada for the Congo Basin

Support to the Congo Basin Forest Fund - CAD\$20 million, 2012-2014. Canada has contributed \$20 million to the Fund for the forests of the Congo Basin in order to reduce poverty and combat climate change by reducing, slowing, and reversing the rate of deforestation in the Congo basin region.

Canada provided \$40.0 million in fast-start climate change financing to the **Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's (FCPF) Readiness Fund** (2011-2020) and \$4.5 million to the **Carbon Fund** (2012-2020). Canada's contribution to the FCPF is designed to support the efforts by developing countries in tropical and sub-tropical regions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. It also supports the conservation and sustainable management of forests as well as the enhancement of forest carbon stocks (amount of carbon stored in forest ecosystems).

Canada contributed \$216.57 million to the **Fifth Replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF5)**, covering the period of 2010-2014. Through the GEF, Canada helps developing countries implement their environmental priorities and multilateral environmental agreements they have concluded. This is done in areas such as climate change, biodiversity, land degradation, chemicals managements, sustainable forestry and international waters.

The Canada Fund for African Climate Resilience (\$23.2 million) supports projects that focus on reducing the effects of climate change and improving local adaptation to the

impacts of weather-related challenges in Africa, specifically in the areas of food security and economic growth. The Fund is part of Canada's commitment to the Copenhagen Accord under Canada's fast-start climate financing.

Following a call for proposals launched in 2012, Canada is partnering with the following nine organizations to implement 10 projects in 8 African countries :

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency- Rwanda
- Association des coopératives du Canada – Éthiopie
- Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles- Sénégal
- CHF – Éthiopie et Ghana
- Société canadienne pour nourrir les enfants - Ghana
- Union des producteurs agricoles — Développement international – Burkina Faso
- Université de Guelph — Campus d'Alfred – République démocratique du Congo
- Vision Mondiale Canada – Tanzanie
- Institut national pour le développement durable - [Burundi](#), [Cameroun](#), [République centrafricaine](#), [Tchad](#), [Congo](#), [République démocratique du Congo](#), [Gabon](#), [Guinée](#), [Rwanda](#), [Sao Tomé-et-Principe](#)

The **B-ADAPT Project** in Cameroon (\$2,720,229) with CUSO International and the African Model Forest Network seeks to increase the access to sufficient, nutritious and safe food and economic well-being of 2,000 women and men producers in the Model Forests of Campo-Ma'an (Southern region of Cameroon) and of Dja & Mpomo (Eastern region of Cameroon), while improving their capacities to become more resilient to climate change. The project aims to implement a system for technical support, provide services and create profitable commercial businesses that are self-maintained, resilient and community-managed. Targeted beneficiaries are agricultural producers in rural areas, especially women, youth and aboriginal communities, who form the basis of the region's agricultural food system.

The African Network of Model Forests - \$15 million

From 2009-2014 Canada has supported the creation and development of the African Model Forests Network (RAFM), under the framework of a \$15 million program dedicated to francophone Africa. The model forests are platforms of coordination and action, anchored in large landscapes, encouraging multi-stakeholder collaboration in support of sustainable forest management. This initiative has led to the strengthening of two pre-existing model forests in Cameroon as well as the development of five model forests in DRC, Congo and Rwanda. The Cameroonian model forests have benefited from project funding of the Canada Fund for African Climate Resilience, which has given rise to interventions to improve agricultural productivity of forest communities. The Lake Tumba Model Forest in Équateur, DRC, is one of the landscapes which is benefiting from the COBAM project being implemented by CIFOR with the financial support of PACEBCO.

CONSERVATION INTL (CI)

- 1) Work with partners in the region to get more countries to sign on to the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (<http://www.gaboronedeclaration.com/>), a green development alliance that CI has been supporting.
- 2) Assist in connecting universities in the consortium to those in the DRC with programs that focus on environmental training.
- 3) Explore the possibility of CI helping to host educational / technical exchanges/visits by people in the Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi-Biega (MKTB) Landscape (e.g., visit by Burundian park and/or tourism officials to see the management and tourism potential of Kahuzi-Biega National Park). CI interventions in MKTB are supported by CARPE III, Central Africa Ecosystems Conservation Project (CAFEC) project.

EUROPEAN UNION

Contribution de l'Union Européenne à la session 10 de l'agenda de la RDP

L'Union Européenne est un partenaire de longue date des pays du bassin du Congo pour les questions de forêts et d'environnement. Les premiers programmes de conservation ont été établis à la fin des années quatre-vingt au Tchad, au Zaïre et en République Centrafricaine.

Actuellement, cet appui se mobilise au travers du Fonds Européen de Développement – FED – et du budget de la commission (Programme Thématique Environnement et Ressources Naturelles ENRTP) et se traduit selon plusieurs axes: (i) conservation de la biodiversité, (ii) gouvernance et légalité forestières, (iii) atténuation et adaptation au changement climatique, (iv) renforcement des capacités, (v) systèmes d'information forestière et de biodiversité.

Des évolutions importantes peuvent influencer les actions de l'Union Européenne pour 2014-2020.

- Une procédure de revue du Plan d'action FLEGT est en cours.
- Une approche stratégique panafricaine de conservation de la nature donnera un cadre cohérent et concerté aux actions pour les 10 prochaines années.
- La COP de la convention cadre sur le Climat à Paris en 2015 mobilise tous les services de l'UE pour obtenir des résultats ambitieux de réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre.

En termes concrets, le 11^{ème} Fonds Européen de Développement (2014-2020) prévoit des enveloppes très importantes pour les secteurs forêts et biodiversité dans le bassin du Congo, en particulier :

- L'enveloppe nationale de la RDC est de 120 millions pour la biodiversité et le développement rural. Les projets se concentreront autour de 5 aires protégées majeures dans une gestion territoriale (protection de l'AP, développement rural et économique autour de celle-ci). Les aspects de gouvernance forestière, de bois-énergie seront également présents.
- L'enveloppe nationale du Tchad est de 30 millions pour la gestion en premier lieu du Parc de Zakouma et dans une moindre mesure d'autres Aires Protégées sahéliennes.
- L'enveloppe régionale Afrique Centrale est en cours de discussion avec les institutions régionales, mais devrait doubler par rapport au 10^{ème} FED. La gestion d'aires protégées prioritaires (dans leur zone d'influence) absorbera les deux tiers de l'effort, tandis que les autres financements seront affectés à de la formation, du contrôle de braconnage et de trafic, de l'information (OFAC).
- L'enveloppe Tous pays ACP, également doublée, améliorera les observatoires régionaux de biodiversité, des actions de formation et sensibilisation, des actions de terrain dans les aires protégées, des actions de lutte contre le trafic de vie sauvage

En outre le budget propre de la Commission prévoit une série d'activités sur le bassin du Congo en 2015 (pour un total de ± 60 MEUR)

- CAWHFI : Appui aux sites du patrimoine mondial dans les paysages Tridom et TNS
- GBIF : plateformes nationales d'information de biodiversité
- Réduction de la demande dans les pays asiatiques
- Soutien des ONGs comme observateurs des APV (via un appel à propositions)
- Soutien au secteur privé pour la mise en œuvre des APV
- Projets de la Global Climate Change Alliance en RDC, au Tchad et au Rwanda (21 MEUR au total)

FRANCE

La France, consciente du fait que la conservation et gestion durable des forêts a un impact positif pour le climat, a apporté un appui continu pour REDD+ et des actions connexes.

Elle a ainsi signé la Déclaration forêt lors du Sommet climat à New York le 23 septembre dernier. Cette Déclaration, saluée par son objectif concret de diviser par deux le défrichement de la forêt naturelle d'ici 2020 et de l'éliminer d'ici 2030, fait partie de nombreuses initiatives lancées par des gouvernements, des entreprises, et de la société civile afin de renforcer l'ambition en vue de la conférence climat à Paris en 2015.

Les forêts du Bassin du Congo continuent une priorité pour la France. En 2014-2015, 30M d'euros seront engagés par l'Agence Française de Développement :

- 20M€ en lien avec la République du Congo, dans le cadre de la conversion de dette, pour notamment i) l'aménagement des concessions encore non-aménagées dans la cuvette de Sangha, et ii) un programme cacao dans le Nord-Congo ;
- 6M€ de dons pour l'aménagement durable des forêts en République démocratique du Congo ; et
- 5M\$ au travers le Fonds Carbone du Fonds de Partenariat pour le Carbone forestier. A noter que 2 des 6 programmes REDD+ (à l'échelle nationale ou sous-nationale) participants dans le Fonds Carbone se situent dans la sous-région : au Nord-Congo et dans la République Démocratique du Congo (RDC).

En complément, 10 M d'euros seront engagés en 2014-2015 par l'Agence Française de Développement, dans le cadre de l'accord de conversion de dettes France-Gabon pour un projet de lutte contre la grande criminalité faunique et le trafic d'ivoire au Gabon, qui vise à améliorer l'état des populations d'éléphants au Gabon par des activités centrées sur (i) la lutte anti-braconnage sur le terrain ; (ii) la lutte contre les réseaux de commerce illégal d'ivoire ; et (iii) l'amélioration des connaissances et l'adhésion des populations à la politique nationale de conservation de l'éléphant.

GERMANY

Comme dans le passé, l'Allemagne manifeste un intérêt continu d'apporter un appui à la sous-région dans la conservation et gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers du Bassin du Congo.

L'Allemagne s'est engagée à accompagner la COMIFAC dans la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration de Yaoundé. Elle a ainsi mis en place dès sa création d'un programme d'appui à la COMIFAC qui peut aujourd'hui se réjouir d'avoir contribué entre autres à la mise en place des structures du Secrétariat Exécutif et des Institutions sous-régionales partenaires, au renforcement de la participation de la société civile, au dialogue international sur les forêts, à la promotion de la certification forestière et à la lutte anti-braconnage dans les parcs nationaux.

- Pour ce qui est du Plan de Convergence révisé, l'Allemagne s'est encore engagée à mettre en place une phase nouvelle de son Programme d'Appui.
- Au centre de notre coopération future peuvent être cités le processus d'Accès et Partage des Avantages dérivées de la gestion des ressources génétiques dans le cadre de la Convention sur la Biodiversité, le parc transfrontalier entre le Tchad et le Cameroun, la participation à la Fondation sur le Tri-National de la Sangha (FTNS) et la promotion de la certification forestière.

- L'Allemagne va continuer à travailler pour la structuration du dialogue entre la Chine et la COMIFAC sur les forêts.

Je tiens à ajouter, que les partenaires techniques et financiers seront plus nombreux à soutenir davantage cette institution, lors qu'ils auront constaté qu'elle bénéficie déjà d'un appui important des pays du Bassin du Congo eux-mêmes.

- Mise à part cette approche régionale, l'Allemagne continue à s'engager dans deux pays, le Cameroun et la RDC, qui ont choisi le secteur environnement et forêts comme priorité. En RDC, la coopération apporte un appui à la mise en œuvre du Plan National Environnement, Forêts, Eau et Biodiversité au niveau national et dans trois Provinces. Dans les prochaines années, le renforcement des capacités des structures du ministère central et des autorités compétentes dans les provinces, le processus de zonage, la foresterie communautaire, le reboisement, les capacités de gestion des parcs nationaux et des zones tampons seront au centre de nos actions.
- Au Cameroun, nous continuerons l'appui au Programme Sectoriel Forêts Environnement, qui contribue aussi à la gestion durable et à la valorisation des ressources forestières du Bassin du Congo.

IUCN:

IUCN will work with CBFP partners to 1) explore and capitalize on issues related to nature-based solutions to climate change and under development, notably by promoting equitable and sustainable REDD+ mechanisms and regimes, 2) promote effective and equitable governance of nature's use as we strive to valorize nature by sustainably managing its resources, 3) working in collaboration with partner organizations and member states within a global framework to address poaching, illegal wildlife and ivory trade in Central Africa region. This will facilitate the implementation of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan and recommendations of existing Sub-regional and International Conventions signed and/or ratified by Congo Basin countries (COPs, Aichi Targets, Rio, etc).

Specifically, IUCN is committed to work with CBFP partners to support:

- Conservation through integrated landscape management that includes restoration of forest and degraded landscapes to fight against the negative effects of climate change (mitigation and adaptation), support on-going REDD+ readiness schemes to promote national and local development, making sure that all key actors have the necessary capacities to do so,
- Support to CEFDHAC Networks (REPALÉAC, REFFAD, RIFFEAC, REPAR, RERAC, REJEFAC) and other pertinent CSOs to fully play their roles as highlighted in the COMIFAC Treaty and subsequent Ministerial Meetings as well as recommendations of CEFDHAC National and Sub-regional Forums (e.g. management of consultation

processes, support to rural conservation and development projects, capacity-building;

- Good environmental governance, notably by supporting the implementation and reform of national forestry, environmental and land tenure conservation policies, legislations and regulatory frameworks (e.g. ARCUS) as well as greater transparency in extractive business sector, to address current and emerging environmental/development concepts and initiatives;
- Harmonization of land use planning policies at the regional level;
- Green economy through certification of economic operations (logging, mining, tourism, agro-industry), implementation of Equator principles and social responsibility);
- Effective management and certification of Protected Areas for conservation of biological diversity and environment services;
- The various initiatives of vulnerable groups like local and indigenous communities and women groups (e.g. mainstreaming gender issues in biodiversity conservation project and programs) in the process of natural resources management and green economy;
- The development of an Ecosystem Profile for the lower Guinean Forest to determine the status of species and develop strategies to promote investments that will facilitate sustainable management of KBA and corridors for the next 5-10 years; Provide technical and strategic support to COMIFAC within CBFP framework context for implementation of Convergence Plan with particular focus on emerging thematic issues such as REDD+, climate change, biodiversity and environment, extractive industries, ivory trade and Asian market linkages, integrated land use planning and management etc.
- Organization and facilitation of high profile 'Big Strategic Events' with COMIFAC countries, donors and other key players, to generate and maintain political dialogue on conservation and sustainable development initiatives within the Congo basin;
- Organization of Central Africa Heads of States summit to address key political issues aimed strengthening sub regional collaboration notably transborder security to combat illegal wildlife trade and criminality, promoting concerted approach in global REDD+/CC negotiations;
- Capacity building in the use of biodiversity conservation data and tools to foster conservation (e.g. BIOPAMA/OFAC Observatory).

JAPAN - JICA

Planned activities of the Japanese cooperation are as below:

1) Projects executed by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)

1.1 Draft of the GDF and strengthening of the national system of forest monitoring for REDD in the DRC: the current phase will end in May 2015 (with possible extension).

1.2 Project Development of the Inventory System of National Forest Resources in Gabon
The current phase will end in September 2015 (with possible extension).

1.3 Project of support to the COMIFAC

It is currently being considered at the level of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2) Projects executed by the Government of Japan:

2.1 A program of support to forest management and wildlife in Cameroon:

We are in the process of setting the program's budget to be decided by Japan to start implementation in November 2014.

NORWAY

Norway is pleased to support the Congo Basin Forests Partnership Anchor Conference on Climate and Land use, REDD+ and Low Emissions Development. Regional collaboration to tackle deforestation and forest degradation is a key reducing climate change. In this sense, COMIFAC and CBFP have important roles to play to ensure and facilitate cooperation between governments, NGOs, indigenous peoples, women's groups, private sector and regional and international actors.

Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative was founded by the Norwegian Government in 2008. The initiative supports the efforts of partner countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The role of the civil society and the private sector in this struggle is crucial.

Reducing deforestation will in addition to preventing global warming, preserve important ecosystem services, such as protection of water resources. Last but not least: actions implemented to reduce deforestation, such as sustainable agriculture and land use, is closely linked to sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

In the advanced stages of REDD+, developing countries should be able to receive payments based on emissions reductions. To reach this stage, countries need to build and implement robust national REDD+ strategies for reducing deforestation.

Norway is supporting efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) in the Congo Basin through several channels and actors working on different levels:

Norway provides considerable support to multilateral actors on REDD+, including the UN-REDD Programme, the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Forest Investment Program (FIP) and the BioCarbonFund. These are important initiatives in the Congo Basin, working closely with governments and civil society in furthering and applying

REDD+. They provide support to countries for national REDD+ strategies and processes. Important elements in these strategies are analyzing the drivers of deforestation, designing national REDD+ strategies, embarking on cross-sector reforms and preparing and implementing national land-use plans. Supporting such national efforts is central to Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative.

- A priority for the Norwegian Climate and Forest Initiative is support to civil society, including support to indigenous peoples and women. Civil society organizations are important actors in moving the REDD + agenda forward. The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) is managing a separate funding scheme for civil society support on REDD+. Through this scheme, Norway is supporting a variety of projects in the Congo Basin.

- Norway is a donor to the African Development Bank's Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF), which funds projects in all 10 COMIFAC countries. Both civil society, NGOs and governments are implementing partners in these projects. There is also involvement from the private sector, which is important in efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. Some projects take place at the regional level, with strong ownership from COMIFAC.

- Finally, Norway has close collaboration with donor partners in the region. We work particularly closely with USAID on the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE). This regional program is co-financed by Norway and USAID, and NGOs are implementing projects through a landscape approach.

- Norway will continue to support the region through a number of initiatives and activities. A new call for proposals under the civil society grant scheme, which will include the Congo Basin, will be announced later this year. Further, Norway remains open to consider support to other initiatives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the region.

The Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment and Norad look forward to having this opportunity, provided by CBFP, to follow up the important work that is taking place in the region, some of which we support financially, to exchange experiences, strengthen partnerships and learn more about ongoing and future initiatives. The Norwegian government will continue the strong support to the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative, which has been extended, for the time being, until 2020.

SNV – Netherlands Development Organisation

SNV is active in Central Africa through country programmes in Cameroon and DRC and project activities in Republic of Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea. SNV works in three main fields of work, Agriculture, Renewable Energy and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). It has also developed a transversal REDD+. Energy and Agriculture Programme (REAP). To address the causes of deforestation linked to energy and agriculture related activities. In the framework of the REAP programme, SNV has developed a number of tools and knowledge products, which are available online. Some of which were also displayed at the PFBC table.

In particular, two of these tools are currently piloted in Central Africa and SNV is looking for partners to help to scale up these tools to a regional scale.

As highlighted during the PFBC meeting, land use planning is key to any REDD+ strategy. The Siting Tool¹ developed by SNV aims to help identify areas suitable for sustainable agricultural expansion. This tool can provide strategic information for investors, companies and governments on meeting targets for economic development while mitigating the impact on forests. The Tool is based on the High Conservation Value (HCV) Toolkit (HCV Consortium, 2009) to address a broad range of sustainability initiatives (like RSPO, RES-D, RSB, RTFO etc.). To provide additional and make HCV assessments more transparent in general, the Siting Tool, in which additional 'risk categories' are added to demonstrate the risk of violating a standard. A major advantage of the Siting Tool is that existing criteria from leading sustainability initiatives are used and combined with a biophysical suitability and human well-being analysis. As such, the most relevant standard(s) in the sector can be selected and the criteria 'translated' into spatially relevant, measurable indicators. The tool can thus be used to identify areas suitable for sustainable expansion of agriculture (for example coffee, cocoa, rubber and oil palm), as well as identify important conservation and human well-being values in the landscape. The Siting Tool is piloted in DRC, RoC and Cameroon for Palm Oil and Cocoa value chains.

In Central Africa, wood-fuel is the most widely fuel used by population, often supplying an important share of the energy consumed in a country, such as up to more than 80% in DRC. In many areas, wood-fuel collection and processing can be an important driver of deforestation, in particular in areas supplying big cities, such as Kinshasa or Kisangani in DRC. On the other hand, wood-fuel supply chains provide jobs for hundreds of thousands of people and in the short to medium term, there is no alternative to wood-fuel to provide energy to millions of people in the sub-region. However, wood-fuel value chains can be transformed in order to contribute to reforestation and socio-economic development in

¹¹ **More details on the siting tool are available**
<http://www.snvworld.org/en/redd/publications/reap-siting-tool-briefing-paper>

rural areas while providing clean and efficient energy efficient to the users. To help transforming value chains in such a way, SNV developed a REDD+ Compatible Fuel Wood Value Chains approach aiming at identifying and comparing possible interventions at every stage of the value chain. The interventions are compared using the 3Es framework: Cost Efficiency, Carbon Effectiveness and Equity & Co-benefits. Projects promoting improved production and transformation of wood-fuel (sustainable charcoal) as well as improved consumption (improved cook stoves).

In order to scale up these interventions and the use of the innovative tools SNV is looking for technical and financial partners.

Finally, energy production and use is central to the way natural resources, including forests, are managed. In DRC, SNV and UNDP collaborated with the Ministry of Hydrologic Resources and Electricity to produce an Atlas of Renewable Energy Resources. This is a tool for decision making in the energy sector and aims at promoting decentralized and participatory energy planning. SNV would be delighted to work with partners to support Government in the sub regions to develop a similar Atlas.

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

REDD+ Governance and Finance Integrity for Africa Project Announced

Outreach activities will be carried out in Central African Republic (CAR), Congo, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Work in these three countries is new for TI as we do not have TI chapter representation there. TI has however begun to engage with actors already active on the ground. This project will therefore seek to further strengthen our relationships with local stakeholders from public and private sectors and civil society, and initiate exploratory capacity building and advocacy actions. This work will be coordinated by a staff member based in the region.

Results for target groups, final beneficiaries and local partners

Overall objective

Improved anti-corruption policy and practice in REDD+ finance and governance in Africa through the development of effective strategies and policies which contribute to prevent corruption in REDD+ in Africa

Specific objectives

- To strengthen citizens' engagement in and demand for transparent, accountable and non-corrupt REDD+ governance and finance policy development and monitoring, nationally and regionally.
- To empower potential victims and witnesses of corruption and fraud in REDD+ actions (including land acquisitions) to pursue their corruption-related complaints.
- To strengthen national, regional and global anti-corruption policies and practices of public institutions and private sector actors responsible for REDD+ actions.

Outputs

- **Citizen and civil society engagement:** training workshops, community visits, seminars, e-learning, advice services, network / coalition building, multi-media information products and campaigns.
- **Anti-corruption tools:** project monitoring tools & applications, citizen reports, advice and legal support services to victims and witnesses of corruption in REDD+, REDD+ corruption risk / governance assessments and risk maps; REDD+ integrity online platform.
- **Policy inputs:** corporate accountability framework, written policy inputs.
- **Advocacy and communications:** press statements, meetings and working groups, web, blog and social media, publications and reports, quarterly updates, partnerships and joint initiatives with other CSOs, campaigns, letters, press statements, oversight/ observer status.

As a civil society anti-corruption watchdog with 20 years' experience fighting corruption, 7 years promoting forest governance integrity and almost 5 years addressing anti-corruption in climate finance globally, TI is committed to drive for significant advances toward achieving this overall objective. By contributing to the protection of REDD+ policy, projects and finance from corruption and fraud, TI will support REDD+ in becoming a viable way to genuinely reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

WCS:

1. **Kibira National park:** WCS intends to open an office in Burundi to support the conservation and management of the Kibira National Park (the remaining largest mountain forest block in Burundi). Over the last 2 years with the support from USFWS and MacArthur Foundation WCS has been supporting the transboundary conservation of Nyungwe-Kibira Landscape in an effort to contain cross border illegal activities and to build mechanisms of collaboration between park authorities of Burundi and Rwanda. (Point person: Michel Masozera)
2. **Protein security:** WCS engages with rural communities in each of its landscapes across the Congo Basin, whether it is large-scale investment or feasibility studies for future work. Among four priorities, WCS intends to specifically work on protein security over the coming years, through 4 main areas: (1) Sustainable fisheries, as WCS plans to hire a sustainable fisheries expert to develop programs with our teams in TNS, Lac Tele, Ituri, and Cameroon, as well as in some other landscapes, including in Gabon, Conkouati, and Salonga, (2) Large-scale protein for large rural towns close to our landscapes, like large-scale chicken and fish project in Ouessou, (3) Improved care for household livestock, like eye-drop vaccine against Newcastle disease each year for chickens in rural villages in priority landscapes, (4) Promoting domestic proteins in urban centers, as WCS wants to be leader in going beyond research to actual efforts to change attitudes and

behaviors in some major urban centers which drive much of the luxury bushmeat demand. (Point person: Michelle Wieland)

3. **Governance of protected areas:** this initiative of WCS is about results-based management and accountability both at site level and at national levels across PA networks. Already doing this in both DRC and RoC with WRI under CARPE and other partners (e.g. GIZ in DRC), and in Gabon with ANPN, WCS intends to scale up this work, for multiple reasons: (1) it is relevant to both government financing of protected areas and also international/bilateral funding of protected areas, (2) it also potentially links in to the various international Standards that are in debate for PA management, (3) its relevant to COMIFAC's objectives and to RAPAC's raison d'être. (Point person: Emma Stokes)
4. **Forests policy:** one of the new WCS's goal in Central Africa is to support conservation objectives by using policy initiatives relevant to and accepted within the region to support on-the-ground conservation focused on 3 main areas of policies: *Protected Areas* (especially policies on World Heritage sites, certification of PAs & transboundary PAs complexes and COMIFAC landscapes), *Commercial Forestry* (especially policies on certification, legality, spatial planning, Public-Private-Partnerships, HCV & Jurisdictional Approach), and *Governance* (transparency, law enforcement monitoring & anti-corruption strategies). (Romain Calaque).
5. Some of the programs/activities covered under pars 2, 3 and 4 are financed by USAID/CARPE under its Central Africa Ecosystems Conservation Project (CAFEC) in DRC and Republic of Congo (RoC).

WWF:

1. Continue to strategically use the WWF worldwide network to communicate:
 - a. The unique value of the Congo Basin and CBFP conservation priorities.
 - b. Raise the seriousness of wildlife crimes at the highest levels. Our new team for communications will work closely with partners CBFP to achieve this.
2. WWF will work closely with ECCAS in support of fighting poaching in the region. WWF will also support countries in the Congo Basin where WWF has a permanent presence, for the establishment of national coordination units that will include all affected by the fight against wildlife crime departments.
3. Technical Support from WWF to ECCAS on strengthening its capabilities in the development of a program of anti-poaching in the North Cameroon, Chad and Central African Republic (project ADB / ECCAS / WWF).
4. WWF will work with ECCAS for the development of a regional strategy for sustainable development of palm oil in the sub-region.
5. WWF will work with WCS and other partners on the promotion and harmonization of inventories and monitoring of large mammal populations in priority landscapes of the sub-region.
6. To share research on the impacts of forest certification more widely, WWF will undertake effective communications about sound forest management practices to

encourage forestry companies to improve their practices and to verify improvements by third party monitoring according to FSC standards.

7. Through WWF France, WWF proposes to actively prepare for COP 21 Paris in November 2015 and assure that CBFP partners project key messages to influence this global event.

8. Some of the activities noted above are financed by USAID/CARPE under its Central Africa Ecosystems Conservation Project (CAFEC) in DRC and RoC.

UNITED STATES

Conservation priorities for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service support in 2015 include conserving Gabon's wildlife in partnership with Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux (ANPN), reducing bushmeat consumption and its commercial trade, improving wildlife security at key sites, minimizing the impacts of extractive industry on wildlife, developing capacity for conservation through team-based approaches and in collaboration with Ecole de Faune de Garoua in Cameroon, and strengthening site-based conservation at Virunga National Park (DRC), Conkouati-Douli National Park (ROC), the Tsuapa-Lomami-Lualaba (TL2) area (DRC), and the Sangha Trinational area with Odzala National Park. Technical assistance includes Francophone Africa CITES Capacity Development.

The United States will continue to build capacity in the Congo Basin through the Global Silvacarbon program and other REDD+ capacity building programs.

Under the Central Africa Forest Ecosystems Conservation (CAFEC) project, USAID/CARPE will continue to implement its forest, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation programs within the eight CBFP landscapes in DRC and the Republic of Congo (RoC), linking these with National REDD+ Strategies and Action Plans, Low Emissions Development Strategies and Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to the extent practical. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Conservation International (CI) and the African Wildlife Fund (AWF) are implementing various components of the CARPE/CAFEC project in DRC and RoC.

Under its Environmental Monitoring and Policy Support (EMAPS) project, CARPE will support regional institutions (COMIFAC and OSFAC) with grants to carry out specific activities in support of CARPE programs in the region in collaboration with NASA and the University of Maryland, focusing on policy issues that affect biodiversity conservation, forest loss and degradation and tools and methodologies for land cover change detection and monitoring, and policy and operational measures to reduce illegal wildlife trafficking. In addition, CARPE will support the EMAPS project, implemented by the World Resources Institute (WRI) to develop comprehensive information systems to provide web-based portal access to a number of ministries in DRC and the Republic of Congo, concerned with land management, infrastructure and renewable and mineral resource exploitation. This system will be linked to the web-based resources such as Global Forest Watch 2. Principal implementers of the EMAPS project are: WRI, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), NSA/University of Maryland Consortium, and the Central Africa Forest Observatory (OSFAC).

USAID/CARPE looks to continue long term technical assistance to COMIFAC and limited support to Cameroon and Gabon under its collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service. As part of the CARPE program, the U.S. Forest Service supports national institutions to build capacity to implement their climate change and forest management mandates.

CARPE will provide support to Gabon National Parks Authority on specific aspects of wildlife management that complement support activities there from other USG agencies. CARPE will support the CBFP Facilitation in developing and coordinating its plans in the CARPE focus countries. CARPE implementing partners intervene in CBFP priority landscapes across the Congo Basin to support governments, communities, and local civil society to work towards sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.

As part of our effort to combat illegal logging and associated trade, we plan to conduct Lacey Act enforcement training with key justice, customs, ministry and other authorities from around the Congo Basin, to increase capacity and effectiveness in pursuing, documenting and bringing to trial natural resource crimes.