



Central African Forest Commission:

*A regional dimension to the conservation
and the sustainable management of forest ecosystems*

**6th General Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
From 27 to 29 June 2018 at the Furama Conference Centre, Da Nang, Vietnam**

HIGH LEVEL EVENT

**Venue: Furama Resort Hotel, Da Nang
Gallery Room
Date: 27 June 2018
Time: 5.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.**

Theme: "Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa: The little-known lung of the planet, emerging issues, challenges and future prospects "

Host: COMIFAC

Chair of side event: The Republic of Rwanda, currently holding the Presidency of the Central African Forest Commission.

The high-level side event aims to showcase the COMIFAC member countries' efforts to foster conservation, management and sustainable development of forest ecosystems in Central Africa with a view to enhancing the visibility of Central Africa's innovative achievements in implementing United Nations conventions on the Environment.

The high-level session will be graced by the Ministers of the Environment of the COMIFAC countries, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of Partners and Donors accredited to the Global Environment Facility and will also include the GEF Focal Points of the Central African countries, GEF parties, the CBFP Facilitation of the Kingdom of Belgium, CBFP technical and financial Partners, GCF, GEF and the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat.

It will be held in three segments: an introduction, followed by introductory statements and discussions.

Moderator: Minister Dr. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, Regional Director for Africa, UN Environment

Segment 1: Opening remarks (12 min)

- Opening statement by the Acting Presidency of COMIFAC
- Remarks – Complementarity GCF and GEF 7: opportunity for central Africa - **Minister Pa Ousman Jarju, Director, Country Programming Division**

Presentations: 35 minutes

- **Presentation 1:** COMIFAC, a political instrument for sub-regional cooperation in the Forestry and Environment sector (Convergence Plan 1: Achievements and PC 2), **Mr. Raymond Ndomba Ngoye, COMIFAC Executive Secretary, Yaounde, Cameroon**
- **Presentation 2:** Sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation, **Dr Jimmiel Mandima, AWF, Director Program Design & Partner Relations, Washington, D.C., USA**
- **Presentation 3:** Central African Participation in the Global Environment Facility: Issues and Perspectives, **Mr. Yannick Ongonwou Sonnet, Central Africa Representative in the GEF Council and General Director for Environment and Nature Protection, Gabon**
- **Presentation 4:** How to increase the Congo Basin’s access to GEF funding – GEF 7, **Mr. Jean Marc Sinnassamy, Senior Advisor GEF Secretariat**
- **Presentation 5:** The future of the Congo Basin’s ecosystems: Financial issues (Investment programs), **Mr. Gervais Itsoua Madzou, Deputy Executive Secretary of COMIFAC, Yaoundé, Cameroon**

Segment 2: Discussions (40 min)

Dialogue between COMIFAC Ministers and technical and financial partners on increasing financial support to meet challenges related to sustainable management, conservation, the fight against climate change and community development

Statement by the Minister of State, François-Xavier de Donnea, Kingdom of Belgium CBFP Facilitator or his representative

Potential questions at the center of the discussions will focus on the following points:

- ✓ Funding needs of Central African countries relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- ✓ Ownership by Financial Partner Ministers accredited to the Global Environment Facility and efforts made by the sub regional instrument
- ✓ Possible measures the partners can take to increase international partners’ interest in the Congo Basin and COMIFAC

Summary, findings and recommendations from the side event - By the Moderator (5min)

- Final and closing remarks by the Acting Presidency of COMIFAC

N.B: A “Cocktail” will be served shortly after the meeting