



Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)
during German Facilitation (2020 – 2021)

Technical questionnaire

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Perspectives from the Congo Basin and our Partnership for upcoming key environmental conferences

Topic: Biodiversity, wildlife and protected area management (CBD process)

(1) Protected area and wildlife management as well as local participation:

- a. How can the **management of existing protected areas** and their buffer zones be optimized in a way that encourages acceptance and ownership of **local populations**? Which practical tools can be successful in the Congo Basin?
- b. What do you consider necessary in order to guarantee a **human rights-based approach to nature conservation** while at the same time enabling park managers, guards and concession holders to effectively protect the ecosystems they have been entrusted?
- c. Which mechanisms or projects could serve as **best practice examples** for integrating local groups into the **management of wildlife, protected areas and buffer zones**?
- d. According to your experience, which ways of sustainably **generating economic benefits** for resident communities promise to be successful for protected area management in the region?
- e. Which **additional advantages** other than economic gains should resident communities obtain from neighboring protected areas to make such zones beneficial for their day-to-day life, e.g. infrastructure, security or basic health services?
- f. Which lessons can be drawn from existing experience regarding the coordination between various actors – such as the military, law enforcement agencies, park authorities, external donors etc. – in the **fight against international wildlife trafficking**? Which cases could serve as **best practice examples** here?
- g. Which options do you consider most promising for securing **long-term financing of protected areas** beyond limited project cycles?



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Topic: Forests and climate (UNFCCC process)

(2) REDD+ and beyond:

- a. In your opinion, what are the major **obstacles to the functionality of REDD+ in the Central African region** so far? How could the existing mechanism be optimized practically to **make REDD+ work**?
- b. Which **preconditions** need to be met on the international level and within the region in order to enable the functionality of REDD+ in the Congo basin? What are **success stories** from the region?

(3) Alternatives for economic valuation of the forests' vast ecosystem services:

- a. Which **alternative mechanisms** could be considered for appropriately **considering the immense economic value of ecosystem services** the Basin's forests provide to the region and to the world?
- b. On the local level, which types of **Payment for Ecosystem Services frameworks** do you consider promising in varying contexts of the Congo Basin's forests?
- c. How could forests and the ecosystem services they provide be **embedded more prominently in** the implementation of current as well as in the elaboration of reviewed **NDCs** from the Congo Basin?

(4) Decreased pressure on virgin forests and restoration of degraded landscapes:

- a. What is necessary to **decrease pressure on the remaining virgin forest landscapes** in the region which are particularly vulnerable to land use change and degradation?
- b. Which preconditions need to be in place in order to use **restoration of degraded landscapes** as tool to divert pressure from intact forest ecosystems?
- c. Which cases could serve as **best practice examples for successful forest and landscape restoration** in the region? Which lessons exist from ongoing or past initiatives?
- d. Which **role** to play do you see for your organization in landscape restoration?



Topic: Sustainable land use & overarching themes

(5) Sustainable land use:

- a. Which preconditions need to be met for an **integrated and sustainable land use planning** in the Congo Basin considering various demands from different user groups of the forest ecosystems in the Basin?
- b. Which **market challenges** for sustainably logged timber in the dynamic trading systems of the region? What is necessary to boost **certification as a tool for incentivizing sustainably forestry** in Central Africa?
- c. In which additional economic branches could **certification or zero-deforestation approaches** be successful in optimizing the sustainability of industrial activity? Which **best practice examples** exist here?
- d. Which prospects and constraints for developing **successful eco-tourism** exist in Central Africa?
- e. Which other successful **initiatives for creating value from the Basin's forests** are you aware of as best practices examples for the future?
- f. How could biodiversity be **mainstreamed** in the Congo Basin countries' planning systems?
- g. Having in mind that **subsistence agriculture** remains a forceful deforestation driver within the basin – Which **approaches to curb smallholder shifting** cultivation while **still allowing for much needed local means of livelihoods** do you consider promising?

(6) Covid-19 and biodiversity

- a. Which **risks from increased human-wildlife contacts** do you see for the future evolvement of viruses and diseases?
- b. In what sense does the Corona virus and its propagation in Central Africa represent a **danger to endangered populations** of Gorillas, Chimpanzees, Bonobos and other large apes?
- c. Buffering the effects of Corona is likely to become a lead topic for international donors in the years to come. Potentially, large financial resources originally foreseen for certain initiatives will be diverted into sectors particularly struck by Corona. What **narratives could be explored on the interlinkage of pandemics and biodiversity?**

(7) Which other topics/ideas would you like to raise?

- a. How can the **coordination** of existing commitments, strategies, programs and initiatives of all kind be optimized to **create synergies?**