

**CONCEPT NOTE ON THE SUMMIT ON THE  
THREE RAINFOREST BASINS (AMAZON, CONGO, BORNEO-MEKONG)**

**BRAZZAVILLE , May 31st - June 3, 2011**

## **SUMMIT OF THREE TROPICAL FOREST BASINS**

**BRAZZAVILLE, May 31-June 3, 2011**

Forests constitute a reservoir of biological resources and play a key role in providing environmental goods and services, regulation and stabilization of global climate, and participates in economic and social development as well. Therefore the sustainable management of forests, Conservation of Biodiversity and climate change are prominent in the international debate, the development of environmental diplomacy and the emergence of the green economy. The ecological role of the three tropical forest basins of the Amazon, Congo and Borneo Mekong is universally recognized. The basins account for 80% of the world's tropical forests and are home to two thirds of terrestrial biodiversity while providing livelihood to more than one billion people.

Countries in these habitats are faced with both the needs of development, ecosystems' destruction, land and forest degradation, and the need for Conservation of biological resources. In these forest basins, indeed, differentiated development of forest management methods can be observed: forest landscaping, transformation of forests into agricultural plantations or in protected sites. Consequently levels of deforestation and degradation vary from one basin to another, depending on forest practices, agricultural policies and development constraints.

Nowadays, loss of forest cover is speeding up and contributes to increase greenhouse gas emissions and land degradation. Thus, deforestation has become a global concern. Conservation of tropical forests and their sustainable management have become requirements that each country or region cannot continue to treat in isolation.

With countries facing similar challenges, cooperation between tropical forest basins is now perceived as a requirement. In this regards, Indonesia convened a meeting for Heads of State of forest countries present at the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2007.

Hence the group of 11 tropical forest countries known as F-11, which includes Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Gabon, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea , Peru and the Democratic Republic of Congo was created.

In February 2010 in Bali, during the UNEP Governing Council, the Indonesian Head of state emphasized the urgent need to promote unity and solidarity among forest developing countries.

However, so far the enhanced cooperation that is required, and forests and climate related issues have not received adequate response to ensure the union and solidarity needed. The REDD + process in which most forested developing countries have started committing themselves consolidates the idea of consultations and exchanges between them on specific, sharp and strategic forest and climate related issues.

It is within this context that in 2006 in Bali, the Republic of the Congo suggested partnerships among tropical forest basins, with the aim of promoting South-South and North-South exchange of experiences and information on forests. UNEP and the Convention Secretariat on Biological Diversity (CBD) were then nominated to develop an agreement or memorandum of cooperation between the three areas and design conditions for its signature. The CBD has organized meetings between the management bodies of the various basins, but these have not yet yielded concrete outcome.

At the summit in Oslo, May 27, 2010, His Excellency Denis Sassou-Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, discussed with his counterparts from Guyana and Indonesia and with the Norwegian Prime Minister the issue of the summit for the three tropical forest basins in Brazzaville in 2011 to mark the International Year of Forests. They all supported the initiative. Additional contacts were established with Brazil, France, China, FAO, ITTO, UNEP, GEF, UNFF, ECCAS and international NGOs, which have welcomed, and recognized the need to organize such a summit and committed themselves to contribute to its organization.

The idea that a Cooperation Agreement should be signed in Brazzaville between the three tropical forest d basins was enhanced. This partnership Agreement would also consider the non members tropical forests countries of well defined basins wishing to join the initiative.

### **Summit objectives**

The overall objective of the summit is to facilitate the establishment of a South-South cooperation on one hand, and North-South, on the other hand, in view of the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in the basins of Amazon, Congo and Mekong Borneo, to ensure a greater contribution to the regulation and stabilization of the planet's climate, the fight against poverty and economic development of countries concerned.

The specific objectives are:

- Learn about the current state of forest resources of the basins;
- Facilitate the signing of the agreement between the basins as a formal framework for consultation and discussions on forestry and climate issues;
- Adopt a joint statement on tropical forests, climate and sustainable development in the view to contribute to the future Climate Agreement in Durban (COP. 17), South Africa and in the preparations of the Rio +20 Summit in Brazil.

## **PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE ORGANIZATION**

ECCAS, COMIFAC, AU, ASEAN, ACTO, FAO, ITTO, UNEP, UNESCO, GEF, the World Bank, African Development Bank, the Secretariats of the United Nations Conventions on the Environment (UNCDD, CBD, UNFCCC), the Rainforest Foundation and other Coalition partners have been approached or retained to be part of the Summits' Organizing Committee with a light structure, presided by the host country.

## **WORKING DOCUMENTS**

The main documents of the Summit include:

- The current state of tropical forests in the three (03) basins, which will be submitted by FAO and ITTO;
- The Agreement of Cooperation between the three (03) forest basins, which will be produced by FAO, UNEP, CBD and IUCN;
- Joint Declaration on tropical forests, the climate and sustainable development, which will be developed by UNEP and ITTO.

These documents will be available April 15, 2011.

## **COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH**

The Communication related to the Summit will be provided by WWF and the Meridian Institute, Washington, and awareness of civil society will be conducted by the Rainforest Coalition.

## **SECRETARIAT**

UNEP, UNESCO and FAO will be in charge of the secretariat and of publishing the Summit's proceedings.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

The Summit will bring together nearly 500 participants from the three tropical forest basins and other countries and / or sub-regions and development partners.

**Congo Basin:** Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Chad.

**Amazonian basin:** Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela.

**Mekong Borneo Basin :** Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.

**Other tropical countries:** Argentina, Belize, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, India, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Tanzania, Uruguay.

**PARTNERS :** South Africa, Australia, Canada, Russia, Finland, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Monaco, United Nations, Norway, USA, FAO, ITTO, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, GEF, UNFF , IUCN, WWF, WCS, African Union, NEPAD, ECCAS, COMIFAC, ASEAN, ECCAS Treaty of Amazon, Meridian Institute, CARPE, the Rainforest Coalition, World Bank, African Development Bank, PFBC, the United Nations Conventions on the environment.

## **MEETINGS**

A first meeting for forest experts, lawyers and diplomats from countries participating in the Summit will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 12 to 14 May 2011, it will consider provisional documents on the Cooperation Agreement and the Joint Declaration. A round table for partners and donors is scheduled in Paris on April 10, 2011.

## **FINANCING**

The Summit' budget include the costs of coordination, advocacy, communication, and secretarial. Financial contributions are sought to that effect with Governments, donors and sponsors.

## **LOGO**

A competition will be launched in February 2011 for the design of the logo.

## **WEBSITE**

The construction of a website *[www.3bassinsforestiers.org](http://www.3bassinsforestiers.org)* is ongoing, and it is expected to be available in March 2011.

## Useful addresses & contacts of key persons

**SECRETARIAT OF THE SUMMIT** : [sommet3bft@gmail.com](mailto:sommet3bft@gmail.com)

- S.E.M. **Henri DJOMBO**, Ministre du Développement Durable, de l'Economie Forestière et de l'Environnement de la République du Congo.  
Tel. : +242 05 556 35 25 / E-mail : [hdjombo@yahoo.fr](mailto:hdjombo@yahoo.fr)

### FOCAL POINT

- M. **Ludovic Séraphin MPILI**, Conseiller à l'Environnement et au Tourisme du Chef de l'Etat. *Président du Comité Technique d'Organisation du Sommet des 3 Bassins Forestiers Tropicaux.*  
Tel. : +242 05 556 02 02 / E-mail : [lsmpili@yahoo.fr](mailto:lsmpili@yahoo.fr)

### MEMBERS OF THE TECHNICAL COMITEE

- M. **Macaire NZOMONO**, Conseiller à l'Economie Forestière du Chef de l'Etat.  
Tel. : +242 05 521 18 62 / E-mail : [mackzom@yahoo.fr](mailto:mackzom@yahoo.fr)
- M. **Martin ADOUKI**, Conseiller Diplomatique du Chef de l'Etat.  
Tel. : +242 06 676 07 28/ 05 558 93 87 /E-mail : [departdiploma@yahoo.fr](mailto:departdiploma@yahoo.fr)
- M. **Donatien NZALA**, Directeur Général de l'Economie Forestière.  
Tel. : +242 05 551 83 73 / E-mail : [nzala\\_don@yahoo.fr](mailto:nzala_don@yahoo.fr)
- M. **Grégoire NKEOUA**, Directeur Général de l'Environnement.  
Tel. : +242 06 666 94 48 / E-mail : [nkeouagregoire@hotmail.com](mailto:nkeouagregoire@hotmail.com)
- M. **Jean Ignace TENDELET**, Directeur général du Développement Durable.  
Tel. : +242 05 526 99 11 / E-mail : [jitendelet@yahoo.fr](mailto:jitendelet@yahoo.fr)
- M. **Jacques OSSISSOU**, Conseiller aux Forêts du Ministre du Développement Durable, de l'Economie Forestière et de l'Environnement.  
Tel. : +242 06 650 81 45 / E-mail : [ossijack@yahoo.fr](mailto:ossijack@yahoo.fr)
- M. **Alexis MINGA**, Conseiller au Développement Durable et à l'Environnement du Ministre du Développement Durable, de l'Economie Forestière et de l'Environnement.  
Tel. : +242 06 666 62 48 / E-mail : [alexis\\_minga@yahoo.fr](mailto:alexis_minga@yahoo.fr)
- M. **Germain KOMBO**, Deuxième Conseiller, Ambassade du Congo à Nairobi.  
Tel. : +242 05 512 55 45 / E-mail : [kombo\\_g@yahoo.fr](mailto:kombo_g@yahoo.fr)

- **M. Lazare SAFOUESSE MAKAYAT**, Secrétaire Général Adjoint du Département des affaires Multilatérales au ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération.  
Tel. : +242 05 700 10 66 / E-mail : [lmakayat@yahoo.com](mailto:lmakayat@yahoo.com)
- **M. Jacques OBINDZA**, Directeur de l'Organisation des Nations Unies au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération.  
Tel. : +242 06 952 99 09 / E-mail : [objack@hotmail.fr](mailto:objack@hotmail.fr)
- **Mme Rosalie MATONDO**, Coordinatrice Nationale du Programme National d'Afforestation et de Reboisement.  
Tel. : +242 05 521 35 96 / E-mail : [rosalie\\_mat@yahoo.fr](mailto:rosalie_mat@yahoo.fr)
- **M. Georges Claver BOUDZANGA**, Conseiller aux Changements Climatiques du Ministre du Développement Durable, de l'Economie Forestière et de l'Environnement.  
Tel. : +242 06 666 62 48 / E-mail : [bouzgege@yahoo.fr](mailto:bouzgege@yahoo.fr)
- **M. Paulin Christian LOUBAKI**, Attaché à l'Environnement au Cabinet du Chef de l'Etat.  
Tel. : +242 06 888 58 99 /05 536 11 98 / E-mail : [pcloubaki@yahoo.fr](mailto:pcloubaki@yahoo.fr)