

***Proceedings of the 13th Meeting of the
Congo Basin Forest Partnership
(CBFP)***

With heartfelt thanks to session facilitators/moderators at the 13th CBFP Meeting of Partners whose lively contributions led to these key findings: Dr Nicole Muloko Ntoutoume (Gabon Presidency), Clotilde Ngomba Mollo (AfDB/CBFF), Leonard Usongo (IUCN), Marie Tamoifo (REJEFAC), Cleto Ndikumagenge (FAO-CBFF-COMIFAC), Dr Cécile OTT ép.DUCLAUX-MONTEIL (Cleanearth), Diane Russell (USAID), Prof. Damase P. Khasa (Uni Laval), Franklin Moore (USAID), Ameliah Croft (US), Michel Pré (France), Philippe Mayaux (EU), Eulalie bashige (REFADD), Dr Hans Schipulle (Germany), Alain Penelon (EFI), Sam Healy (US) and Jérôme Guéack (COMIFAC/PACEBCo).

The 13th meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership was held in Libreville, Gabon, on December 2-3, 2013. The event was hosted by Gabon's Prime Minister, Raymond NDONG SIMA and the Minister of Forests, Water, Environment, Gabriel Tchango. The theme of the meeting was "Forest Livelihoods and Economic Opportunities for Central Africa."

This was the first meeting under the U.S. Facilitation, and was organized with financial support from the U.S.A., the Netherlands, Gabon, Germany, France and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Nearly 230 participants attended, including members of regional organizations such as ECCAS, COMIFAC, diplomatic representatives, national government officials from member states, scientific and research institutions, NGOs, private sector partners, financial and technical institutions and civil society organizations and specialized networks affiliates of CEFDHAC.

The 13th meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership was followed by a forest research symposium held on December 4-5, 2013, organized by COMIFAC and supported by CIFOR, CIRAD, IRD and the U.S. Facilitation of the CBFP.

The Proceedings of the 13th meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership are structured in 10 sessions, as follows:

Session 1 : Opening Session and Keynote

Moderator: Dr Nicole Muloko Ntoutoume, Gabonese Presidential Advisor

After welcome remarks by the U.S. CBFP Facilitator Matthew Cassetta, participants heard remarks by Franklin Moore, Deputy Assistant Administrator of USAID for Africa, who spoke on the theme: Growing Sustainable Economies. Following his remarks, a plenary discussion examined the challenges of balancing economic growth with maintaining environmental assets, and how land use planning and management systems in the Congo Basin could play a role in achieving the dual goals of increased economic prosperity and sustaining forest biodiversity. Excerpts of Franklin Moore's remarks follow:

"I was last here 12 years ago, alongside Colin Powell when Pres. Omar Bongo stunned the world by declaring a network of pristine national parks to safeguard a huge swath of forest biodiversity for future generations. It was truly a proud moment of history.

We know that sustained economic growth and development can occur alongside preserving forest resources. We see this in many places around the world, and we know it requires collaboration, and innovative thinking. I am confident that the countries of central Africa are ready for this, and have the political will and the openness needed to embrace change. So how concretely can we achieve economic and conservation success, to assure that central Africa achieves its vast potential for economic growth?

- Peace and security are a prerequisite to unleash economic activity and growth;*
- A solid infrastructure will facilitate development, and need not degrade your forest heritage;*
- Transparent policies and sound public institutions will serve investors and citizens alike;*
- building the capacity of people will modernize and professionalize the workforce and propel productivity and innovation;*
- The pristine environmental assets of the Congo Basin are the inspiration of the world;*
- building links to networks for trade and commerce will diversify and expand economic benefits."*

We now live in a world where we are accountable to all stakeholders and we must engage their talents as a key resource for success. The CBFPP is a prime example of this, and it amazes me how it has expanded and flourished since I was last here with Colin Powell back in 2002 at the outset of this critical Partnership.”

Session 2: Official Opening Session of the 13th CBFPP Meeting

This session featured four formal speeches from the high political officials:

Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Monsieur Emmanuel Ze Meka.

Mr. Ze Meka thanked the government of Gabon for its hospitality and for hosting the ITTO and the 13th meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. He also congratulated Matthew Cassetta, on his nomination as the U.S. Facilitator of the CBFPP and wished him every success. Mr. Ze Meka also recalled the founding goals of COMIFAC, and implored the CBFPP to mobilize the necessary resources to take action to preserve the region’s forests, noting that the ITTO has dedicated projects to conservation, training, capacity-building and institutional development in the region, both at national levels (in the states of COMIFAC) as well as at the regional level. This support also seeks to improve living conditions of local populations. He also emphasized that the Congo Basin’s forests can play a role in economic development in the region, and that challenges can be overcome by participative management and the participation of all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, and local communities, NGOs, research institutions and other development partners.

The Minister of Environment of Chad, President of COMIFAC, represented by the Executive Secretary of COMIFAC, Raymond Mbitikon

Mr. Mbitikon addressed the plenary and affirmed that the CBFPP is a concrete response of the international community to sustain the forests of the Congo Basin. He noted that the U.S. Facilitation has taken over at a time when massive poaching has intensified, threatening elephants and other wildlife in the sub-region. This situation is further complicated by the rise of armed conflict in the region. To confront these challenges, COMIFAC has joined with the U.S. Facilitation of the CBFPP to strengthen institutional activities, and has engaged in strengthening forestry governance with a working group the executive secretariat oversees on this topic. Mr. Mbitikon also called on all partners to continue their support to the countries of the sub-region to combat the degradation of natural resources.

The Deputy Secretary General of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC) in charge of physical, economic and monetary integration, Roger Tchoungui

Mr. Tchoungui recognized the presence of the Gabonese authorities presiding over the 13th meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, and praised their engagement in sustaining the forestry economy of the region. CEEAC plays a critical role in economic transformation, in assuring the participation of local SMEs in national and international markets. Speaking about non-timber forest products, he noted that CEEAC is increasingly engaged in their development, as rising numbers of local citizens become engaged in valuing and marketing these products. Strategic gatherings such as this one should aim to develop institutional, legal and financial tools to invigorate SME sectors as a major force to eliminate poverty. In conclusion, he advocated for multidisciplinary efforts to address the complexity of threats to Congo Basin forests, most notably sectoral conflicts (forest/oil, forest/mining, forest/infrastructure and forest/urbanization). He also praised the CBFPP as a platform for exchange among the diverse partners working in the region.

Gabonese Prime Minister Raymond NDONG SIMA, represented by the Director of Cabinet of the Minister of Water and Forests of Gabon

The final segment of the opening session featured the Director of Cabinet of the Gabonese Ministry of Water and Forests. He emphatically supported partner efforts that assure the sustainable management of Congo Basin forest, and highlighted several notable initiatives that Gabon has pursued to this end. The adoption and application of the 2001 forestry law has been key in this process, as has the creation of Gabon's protected areas system and the commitments made at Nagoya, Japan in 2010 for Gabon to fully protect 17% of its territory. He spoke also about Gabon's national sustainable development strategy, centered on good governance, social welfare and environmental protection. Gabon's example is a call to other partners to support countries in their goals for nature conservation. Before announcing the 13th CBFP Meeting officially open, he also emphasized the federating role that CBFP should play to support the sub-region to better manage its forests and environment.

Session 3: Developing Conservation-based Economic Opportunities: Framing the Issues – Ingredients for Success

The question was posed to the panel: how can we be successful in developing conservation-based development?

Discussions were started by four expert researchers and practitioners, each with respective experience in the following sectors: (i) economic diversification in forestry concessions; (ii) ecotourism development in Central Africa from a private sector perspective; (iii) conservation agriculture in forest regions; (iv) developing market access to sustain Congo Basin farmers.

In the discussion, the questions asked of panelists included:

Question #1: Mr. Allain BILLAND: what are the challenges of agriculture and conservation in forest ecosystems?

Mr. Billand explained that agriculture in the Congo Basin takes several forms, including mixed family/salary-based; self-subsistence/rent; and systems of multifunctional landscapes. Farming is generally characterised by poor productivity due to soil limitations and uncertain land tenure arrangements.

There are several positive aspects that may transform yields such as longer growing seasons, fertilizer use, agroforestry systems, etc. Progress in addressing land tenure issues has been slower, even as efforts in micro-zoning may advance progress, as does collaboration among different state agencies charged with land management.

Question #2: Mr. Charly FACHEUX: Avec African Wildlife Foundation, on parle beaucoup d'amélioration des moyens de subsistance et de conditions de vie ; comment réussit-on à adosser cela sur la conservation ?

Current agricultural practices pose problems for conservation and lead to deforestation, a rise in bushmeat trade and contribute to poverty. The keys to success may include: (1) increase agricultural yields, (2) improve technical practices in forest farming areas, (3) increase market access and promote entrepreneurship, (4) develop group strategies, (5) increase local capacity of rural associations, (6) Formalize conservation agreements.

Proposed solutions include: establishing MOUs among different stakeholders, support micro-zoning as a wider scale strategy, improving transportation links in the region.

Question #3: Mr. Jean-Dominique BESCOND: Some partners have opposed linking conservation and timber extraction. Do you think there is a case for supporting economic diversification in forestry concessions while including conservation? If so, what policy challenges does this approach present?

The diversification of activities in CIB concessions are based on biomass production, advanced transformation of primary materials, investment in re-visiting the viability of cacao-culture in forest areas, implementing carbon storage initiatives as well as projects to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Question #4: Mr. Praveen MOMAN: Ecotourism is a perfect example of an economic opportunity firmly linked to conservation and Volcanoes Safaris has been cited as a success story in this sector. What are the current challenges and what issues have you overcome in ecotourism operations?

The organizers have pointed out that the private sector is crucial to promotion and development of ecotourism. In the Congo Basin, we must note that the region's attractions face stiff competition to become competitive with other well-known destinations. Capacity and skills to build a hospitality culture are key for tourism - in government, parks, conservation organizations, hotels and tour companies - and they are perhaps more crucial even than infrastructure. Partnerships linking development and eco-tourism are promising and we must find ways to build long term PPPs linking business, conservation non-profits, communities, governments, donors. Without a new model it will be difficult to overcome current infrastructure deficits, service development barriers and the high risk of doing business in the region.

Discussion in this panel centered on:

- 1. assuring participation of all stakeholders in development processes;*
- 2. the importance of creating value added for diverse forest products;*
- 3. improving infrastructure, communication, transport, and marketing in the value chain ;*
- 4. The urgent necessity to create institutional and organizational systems that encourage private sector investment in the Congo Basin;*
- 5. The challenge of defining viable models of agriculture that respect the integrity of forest ecosystems;*
- 6. Agriculture near protected areas: the critical role of mediation.*

Session 4 Exposition innovatrice des projets à succès (présentation en parallèle)

Facilitated by Léonard Usongo (IUCN), this session highlighted the efforts of eight innovators, to show how they have achieved success with economic projects in the region. This unique experience fascinated participants with a rapid array of presentations in a very short period. Each organization gave a quick project summary to small groups of randomly grouped plenary participants. This "Innovation Alley" format allowed a dynamic overview of sustainable development projects underway in the Congo Basin. The eight presentations focused on: (1) Developing non-timber forest products for local communities, by Eulalie Bashigue, REFADD ; (2) Mapping potential biodiversity benefits from REDD+, Landing Mane, OSFAC (3) A revolution in sustainable agriculture in the Congo Basin, Julie Gaoe, Jean Claude Njomkap, RAFM (4) Community participation in legal forestry and timber markets, Pierre Mieuguem, SNV (5) Community-led Negotiated Partnerships: Social Clauses in DRC, Bruno Perodeau, WWF-DRC and local community leaders (6) a model for community Leadership in ecotourism, Jean Christophe Bokika, Mboumontour, DRC (7) Youth entrepreneurs and green jobs, Guelele Kouene Kintono Arsene Rigobert, REJEFAC Congo (8) Successful livelihood strategies linking DRC protected areas, Kabare Rugemaninzi II Desire, Chef Coutumier, PNKB- DRC, Arnaud Gotanegre, GIZ/KFW-PBF.

Presenters described the activities of selected projects through stories and anecdotes. Some also used images, products and posters to engage discussion with participants.

Session 5: Marketplace of Ideas: CBFP Partners' Innovative Success Stories (parallel sessions)

Facilitation: Tamoifo Marie, REJEFAC Cameroon

Participants engaged in discussions surrounding the most critical challenges faced by regional partners. Interactive discussions offered opportunities for direct debates among CBFP partners on innovative and emerging initiatives.

Marché 1: Congo Basin REDD+ Platform: Mitigation and Adaptation

Facilitation: Cleto Ndikumagenge, FAO-CBFF-COMIFAC

Context

Number of participants: 65 **Moderator:** Cléto Ndikumagenge **Time Keeper:** Véronique Tchimalanga

Summary of presentations:

1. *Principal lessons of REDD+ in Central Africa: case of REDD+ project of GEF-BM.* By **Hervé Maidou.**
2. *Multi-stakeholder participation in REDD+ processes: approaches and lessons learned from IUCN.* By **Remi JIAGHO**
3. *MRV national-level systems : developments at local and regional levels and partnerships in progress:* by **Henk Hoefsloot and Alassa Mfouapon**
4. *The Bonn Initiative implications for mitigation and adaptation to climate change : case of Burundi:* by **Dominique Endamana, IUCN and Felix Ngendabanyikwa, National COMIFAC Coordinator, Burundi**
5. *Beyond adaptation and mitigation: multisectorial approaches and synergies in the Congo Basin.* **Anne Marie Tiani, CIFOR**

Points saillants et recommandations

1. *Access to REDD+ financing could permit states to participate more fully in mechanisms to limit deforestation and degradation. To date, many initiatives bear witness to the insufficient level of financing available to respond to burgeoning needs in target countries. An evaluation of the progress made since the Durban Declaration would allow all stakeholders to take stock and better align their efforts with those of CBFP partners. REDD objectives, programs and strategies for adaptation should strive for the development of green economic growth in target countries most notably in the agriculture sector. Multisectorial approaches could reinforce synergies between adaptation and mitigation measures and integrate these in overall development policies.*
2. *The political engagement of states at the national level remains the key factor to successful mitigation and adaptation programs. State policies should also lead to the adoption of common regional positions, marked by multi-stakeholder participation and dialogue to assure follow-through for REDD+ commitments linked to national priorities.*
3. *It is important to promote current and potential initiatives to advance zoning and landscape management. To do so, we must be thoroughly familiar with the compensation tools linked with*

deforestation, degradation and economic growth as well as to reinforce knowledge and capacity in national MRV surveillance systems to measure carbon stocks.

Marché 2: Improving Enabling Environments for Civil Society Engagement

Moderator : Dr Cécile Duclaux-Monteil Ott, CLIENTEARTH.

Number of participants in session : 50 Rapporteur : Diane Russell

Summary of Presentations:

1. Local development funds - Experiences of PACEBco in landscapes: lessons learned, challenges and perspectives, PACEBco-SNV - led by Albert Bokkestijn and Pierre Mieuguem

2. Project B-Adapt, a partnership of RAFM-Cuso International, a model for improving living conditions for local and indigenous populations - Cuso International by Guy Huot

3. Assuring Livelihoods of Communities near protected areas: experiences and lessons learned by IUCN in northern savannah ecosystems of Central Africa, IUCN by Rémy Jiagho

4. Lessons Learned on the sustainability of livelihood projects in Central Africa, IUCN-CARPE by Kenneth Angu Angu

5. Presentation of diverse non-timber forest products - RAFM, REPALEAC, REJEFAC.

Salient Points and Recommendations

The presentations and debates noted the following conclusions:

- Too many projects have short term execution times. They often do not appear to be based on in-depth studies before their implementation yet paradoxically have very ambitious objectives. Because the underlying problems are complex, diverse and varied, projects should seek to develop a long term vision for sustainability from the outset and must incorporate capacity-building into their activities.

Recommendations :

1. Decentralization can be an important tool in making meaningful progress towards poverty reduction. To this end, projects must avoid being conceived of or implemented solely by a limited elite.
2. Projects which aim to promote value-added transformation of non-timber forest products are critical to alleviating poverty. Appropriate tools must be identified for the targeted products, to assure wide participation by local workers and projects must be based on rigorous market studies to assure commercial viability.
3. Projects that are managed by civil society actors should have clear mechanisms for benefit sharing to assure the participation of local populations and indigenous peoples.
4. Projects that are managed by youth groups and indigenous peoples must be given greater visibility. This implies enhanced communications at local, national and regional levels. These projects, as much as any others, need solid partners in the private sector, social media, etc.

5. Civil society should consider how to build and support necessary conditions to assure that their activities can succeed in different country contexts of Central Africa.

Marché 3: Training to build Capacity for Regional Conservation and Development

Moderation : Prof. Damase P. Khasa, Uni Laval

Summary of Presentations:

1. *Training projects synopses: RIFFEAC's strategic vision to mobilize mobilisation technical and financial partners.* By **Ibrahim Sambo**, Regional Coordinator, RIFFEAC.
2. *Expanded Support Project for natural resource management in the Congo Basin (PEFOGRN-BC) : A unique success story, a call for expanded training networks in the Congo Basin.* By **Ibrahim Sambo**, Regional Coordinator, RIFFEAC.
3. *Innovative Results in training and natural resource management in the Congo Basin (FOGRN-BC).* By **Damase Khasa**, UniLaval.
4. *Harmonizing and evaluating initial training, continual training and technical training: Forging ahead.* By **Romeo Jugnor Fogaing**, RIFFEAC.
5. *ITTO Modules for Training Projects.* By **Désirée Nkwinkwa**, ITTO technical advisor.

Salient Points and Recommendations

The discussions focused on the appropriation of sound programs, course content and the employability of trained graduates. The following recommendations were noted :

1. *The political appropriation of programs adopted by RIFFEAC and its member institutions in the COMIFAC zone requires the engagement of forest and education ministries (including higher and professional education institutions) ;*
2. *Completing coursework should incorporate both theoretical and practice sessions;*
3. *Periodic evaluations are need to assure quality control in educational and training programs by an accreditation body ;*
4. *Efforts should target governments, private sector companies as well as civic organizations to assure employment for qualified and fully-trained graduates.*

Session 6: Combatting Wildlife Trafficking in Central Africa

This session was composed of two parts:

1. Dimensions of wildlife trafficking in the sub-region :

- Bas Huijbregts, WWF/TRAFFIC
- Joseph Okouyi, ANPN-Parcs Gabon
- Luc Mathot, LAGA

2. Mobilizing sub-Regional and International Responses

- Coordination of regional efforts
- Responses of donor countries and institutions
- Assuring the implementation of policy recommendations

Discussions and debates resulted in the following salient points:

- Urgent actions to engage partners in halting wildlife trafficking are critically needed in the TRIDOM border area of Cameroon, Gabon and Republic of Congo;
- Civil-Military partnerships hold great potential for combatting wildlife crime and assuring Environmental Security in the Congo Basin;
- Coordination of anti-poaching efforts will require the full engagement of national organizations and international institutions such as Interpol and regional law enforcement bodies.

Contribution of the European Union

Enrico PIRONIO, European Commission

- The 11th FED is now in process. Mr. Pironio noted the long history of EU interventions in Central Africa and recalled prior poaching crises from the 1980s. He affirmed that further engagement is likely. On the political front, a communication of the commission regarding wildlife crimes is expected in early January, as is a resolution from the European Parliament on this theme. A study is underway to define the wildlife policy strategy of the European Union.
- Other well-known programs such as ECOFAC continue apace and the EU has just approved a new financing for MIKE and for BIOPAMA.

Contribution of USFWS

DIRCK BYLER USFWS, 03/12/2013

Since 2008, USFWS has supported 173 projects, totalling over USD 30 million to support conservation activities in the Congo Basin. Several features of this assistance include direct assistance to field based protection activities, such as anti-poaching, training for African institutions and government officials as well as technical assistance. Through this assistance, FWS supports the development of innovative models such as the Eagle Network, and a call for proposals will be issued after this meeting with full application information.

German Contributions to Combat Wildlife Trafficking

Conservation and sustainable biodiversity use is a priority for the German Cooperation that has put aside 131,2 million euros for current and future activities in Central, East and Southern Africa.

In Central Africa, German interventions target three areas of action:

- 1) For countries with high levels of biodiversité, activities include :
 - Support to transborder protected areas such as i) the Trinational Sangha complex (TNS), ii) the Bouba Ndjda-Sena transborder protected area complex;
 - Training forest guards at the Garoua Wildlife School and support to diverse institutions training programs coordinated by RIFFEAC;
- 2) To reduce wildlife trafficking in the region:
 - Training of Cameroon's Unité de Coordination anti-braconnage ;
 - Capacity-building activities in transit and destination countries;
 - Risk analysis and anti-corruption projects;
 - Capacity-building activities for customs, police and judicial officials;
 - Partnerships with key law enforcement organizations (Interpol, customs officials);
- 3) To reduce global demand for wildlife products :
 - Support to the dialogue between Africa and Asia (accords for cooperation);
 - Facilitation of press coverage and journalist travel in target African countries ;
 - Analysis of target groups in consumer countries ;
 - Workshops and gatherings with the private sector to reduce irregular client transactions .

See annexes for further information regarding German contributions.

Contribution COMIFAC

COMIFAC's Biodiversity and Desertification Expert, Chouaibou Nchoutpouen, spoke of three areas of engagement:

Anti-poaching Initiatives in Central Africa, such as initiatives of COMIFAC, highlighting the following:

- *The adoption of a plan of action for COMIFAC countries to enforce national laws regarding wildlife (PAPECALF) from 2012-2017, after an extraordinary COMIFAC council of ministers session.*
- *The organization of an urgent meeting of CEEAC Ministers charged with security, defense and foreign relations, with wildlife authorities, for an emergency plan to combat poaching in the cross-border area including northern Cameroon, north and southwest Central African Republic and southern Chad and adjacent forest areas (with a duration of 45 days).*
- *The Creation of a working group on protected areas and wildlife within the COMIFAC Secretariat.*
- *Two accords were signed to combat transboundary wildlife trafficking: (1) A tripartite cooperation agreement between Cameroon, Central African Republic and Chad regarding transborder wildlife trafficking (2) A tripartite cooperation agreement between Cameroon, Congo and Gabon for transborder cooperation in fighting wildlife trafficking in the TRIDOM area.*
- *A sub-regional strategy is being developed for wildlife management in collaboration with FAO.*

Please see annex for additional information regarding COMIFAC's programs and activities.

Session 7 : CBFP Perspectives and Strengthening the COMIFAC Convergence Plan

Moderation : Michel Pré, France

The Facilitator and the Delegate Facilitator began by presenting the Road Map and priority activities of the U.S. Facilitation (2013-2015). The COMIFAC Executive Secretary then provided a review of results from the Extraordinary Council of COMIFAC ministers held in November 2013, in preparation for the COMIFAC Heads of State Summit in 2014 and review of the Convergence Plan.

The American Facilitation addressed a number of issues relating to its work programme. The discussions highlighted the need to prioritize:

- *more detailed information on the facilitation's priority actions*
- *the integration of climate change adaptation issues in the implementation of the Durban declaration;*
- *strengthening coordination between partners to ensure efficiency in interventions;*
- *the path chosen by the Facilitation which primarily ensures inclusion of the following target groups in its activities: youths, women, local and indigenous communities.*

A few salient points were made regarding activities currently underway within COMIFAC:

- *a positive report of an upturn in payments of countries' contributions to COMIFAC, with four countries out of ten being current in their dues;*

- Construction of the COMIFAC headquarters has been scheduled and a budget has been secured by the Cameroon government to that effect for the current financial year;
- upcoming consultation of partners by means of questionnaire as part of the process of revising the Convergence Plan;
- efforts underway to mobilize technical and financial partners to help organize the Heads of State Summit.

The discussions in addition to a highly anticipated presentation by the American Facilitation, helped to clarify afresh the premise of the Congo Basin Forests Partnership and its position in relation to COMIFAC. It was thus recalled that the facilitation's mission was to foster dialogue and synergies within the CBFP, a type II partnership, rather than fund the Convergence Plan, which is basically a tool designed to be used by decision-makers and partners to guide and assess national and regional policies.

COMIFAC must provide leadership at regional level and the facilitation may support it in the discharge of this role. Communication has emerged as a key factor for success. It must evolve at various levels: data collection and accessibility, management of information, dashboard of interventions in the subregion. However, the fundamental need remains to keep regional organizations alive and secure their resources. It would be necessary to reflect on sustainable financing of COMIFAC as requested by the COMIFAC Council of Ministers. The Heads of State Summit is eagerly awaited as it will formalize these courses of action and translate them into organic laws.

Session 8: A Horizon of New Initiatives

Moderator: Philippe MAYAUX, European Union

This session began by presenting results of some of the most important current studies in the **region**, yielding the following highlights:

- **Richard Eba'a Atyi (CIFOR)** presented a study on the economic valuation of the forest/fauna sector in Cameroon, consolidated by two complementary approaches. The forest/fauna sector accounts for 4% of the GDP, with a similar amount for timber and for fuel wood, but is the more efficient than agricultural and mining sectors in terms of taxes and salaries for local population. He concluded that the important approach taken by « l'importance économique et sociale du secteur forestier en Afrique Centrale » is very relevant and applicable to other Congo Basin countries as done in Cameroon.
- **Alain Billand (CIRAD)** presented the main results of the COMIFAC prospective study on the evolution of the Basin in 2040. The study formulates strategic recommendations for conservation and sustainable use in the eight landscapes and encourages exchanges and dialogue surrounding land use strategies in the Congo Basin. Agriculture and forestry are essential elements of economic revenue (though some ministries are not generally inclusive) - A truly multisectoral approach should be fostered - Results from the Horizon 2040 study reveal future changes in forest ecosystems given current trends. A summary was distributed to participants present.
- **Terry Brncic (World Resource Institute)** provided an update on the progress of Atlas Forest and on Global Forest Watch in strengthening the capacity of the ministries in order to aid forest management. The Equatorial Guinea Forest Atlas is also now available. GFW will launch a test site early next year with data projections showing global projected changes in forest cover - The need for capacity-building among ministry officials was underscored to assure monitoring and sound forest management practices.

- **Carlos de Wasseige, from OFAC**, described the new datasets and databases developed by OFAC at the service of the CBFP partners: GIS data, clickable maps, projects and experts. He insisted on the need for a collaboration of all institutions for allowing this database playing the full role of exchange platform between partners. Comments on improving the EDF's output will be requested soon via CBFP's mailing list.

Secondly, a round of the table was done, allowing partners to introduce new initiatives: CARPE 3, EU: Prospects for 2014-2020; the Okapi Fund of PBF (GIZ-KFW), UMW

- **Sam K. Reddy (USAID)** described the USAID program CARPE III, a 5 year project until 2018. Norway and USAID are financing 8 landscapes; CARPE III aims to do more in fewer countries, while still operating conservation projects for all nations currently under CARPE.
- **Bernard Crabbé, (European Commission)** did not announce new financial commitments as EC is programming its support for the period 2014-2020. The EU will strengthen its activities in management of protected areas and in sustainable forest management, with a focus on the involvement of the private sector. Hereafter the four areas of interventions: (1) Biodiversity & Ecosystems: Supporting Protected Areas (ECOFAC, PDRN) and institutional support (RAPAC, CAWHFI); (2) Forestry and Economic Governance: Negotiation and implementation of VPAs, capacity-building, support to civil society, independent observation, and informal producers. In addition, the EU works with the private sector to support exchanges, activities and partner efforts to improve revenue management ; (3) Training & Information: resource knowledge and data access, capacity-building; (4) Climate Change & REDD+: Methodologies (MRV for benefit-sharing, direct support to countries), UN-REDD, FCPF Contributions.
- **Arnaud Gotanegre (GIZ) explained the “Fonds Okapi pour la Conservation”,** a new trust fund for the Ituri Forest in DRC, registered in the UK and receiving mixed fund grants. FOCON aims to contribute to biodiversity conservation, science and education by promoting and funding operational in situ and ex situ PAs in the DRC, prioritized based on the SNCB. As of now, 26million Euros have been provided by KFW (15million) and the World Bank (11million Euros). The fund's capital target is 50 million euros to benefit three key protected areas: Garamba, Salonga and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks).
- **Aliko Songolo (University of Wisconsin-Madison)** presented the new development initiatives in Central Africa, in particular the training of forest conservation trainers for Central Africa and beyond. The Nelson Institute for Environmental Science involves over 150 specialists and will launch a Master Degree in Biology of Conservation and Sustainable forest management next Year.
- **Honorable Louis Roger Essola Etoa (CEFDHAC)** presented the four strategic axes of the new work program of the reformed CEFDHAC, the platform of the civil society on Central African Forests. His presentation concluded that CEFDHAC needs all CBFP partners on board to secure a suitable environment for the platform to succeed: Governments, Civil Society, the Private-Sector, Local communities are all needed to foster dialogue between actors in the management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa which is home to the Congo Basin forests, with civil society spearheading the process.

During the debate, it was mentioned that the first conclusions of the revision of the COMIFAC Plan de Convergence will be available for comments on the CBFP Web site.

Session 9: Marketplace of Ideas: CBFP Partners' Innovative Successes (parallel sessions):

Moderator: Eulalie Bashige, REFADD

• **Marché 4: « Success story » Innovative financing of the Congo Basin Forest Fund**

Coordination : Clotilde Ngomba, AFDB-CBFF

1. *A very successful project promoting a model of mangrove forest management and reforestation should be disseminated and replicated throughout the sub-region, as a strategy for carbon sequestration.*
2. *Management procedures must be simplified and customized to local contextual conditions in order to achieve operational success for NGO beneficiaries.*
3. *Many more projects should be oriented to bettering conditions for communities and to reduce poverty through increased local and institutional capacities.*
4. *The capacity for data analysis in the sub-region has increased tremendously in recent years and should be capitalized on for future activities and projects.
The information from OSFVEC could influence policy to encourage greater sustainability.*

• **Marché 5: The China-COMIFAC Dialogue Partners: WWF, EFI, IIED, GIZ, CIFOR, IUCN, COMIFAC**

Moderator: Hans Schipulle, Germany

China – COMIFAC Dialogue in the CBFP context

This session allowed the exchange of information concerning CBFP members engaged in promoting a dialogue about forestry and natural resource governance with Chinese actors both in China and Central Africa.

Modération: Hans Schipulle, Allemagne (Ex-Facilitateur du PFBC)

Presentations:

- **Marc Languy**, WWF-CARPO: WWF Initiatives (China, CARPO)
- **Bernard Crabbé** (European Commission), Melissa Othman (EFI)
- **Syphorien AZANTSA** (Regional Expert, CEEAC): Bilateral Cooperation Mechanism FLEG (BCM EU-China) Beijing Workshop, October 2013
- **Olivier Ahimin**, ITTO: Implementation Study by timber industry on forest and resource governance
- **Samuel Assembe**, CIFOR :
Impact of Chinese investment on African forests (CIFOR) (see: <http://www.cifor.org/china-africa/home.html>)
- Appropriation of forest and resource governance practices by Chinese companies in Gabon and Congo (GIZ)

Conclusions/Recommendations majeures

- (1) *Contrary to public opinion, there is no common Chinese influence in the debate on regional forestry sustainability. As with many private companies in the forestry sector, Chinese enterprises must make greater efforts to improve performance standards in order to attain acceptable levels according to national and international standards.*
- (2) *Forestry sector laws and regulations in Central African countries pose difficulties for Chinese operators (language, legal context, management techniques, culture), and these operators must become more familiar and conversant with local cultural and contextual systems to adequately comply with local legal codes.*
- (3) *In addition to sustainable management programs benefitting from CBFP partner financing, COMIFAC should negotiate with the SFA (State Forest Administration) and other Chinese institutions to assure Chinese financing to cover costs of meeting environmental practices and legality compliance that challenge Chinese companies.*
- (4) *The objective is to have management systems in place in all forestry concessions within the permanent forestry estate by 2015 as mandated by the heads of state of Central Africa; this should apply to Chinese operators as well, with program support and outreach available immediately to allow them to meet this target.*

For additional information regarding the dialogue between CBFP partners and China, please consult:

- *“China’s trade and Investment in Africa – Assessing and governing trade-offs to national economies, local livelihoods and forest ecosystems”:* <http://www.cifor.org/china-africa/home.html>
- *Deux rencontres de concertation des Partenaires du PFBC impliqués dans le dialogue avec la Chine sur les forêts se sont tenues en janvier et mars 2013 à Douala, Cameroun:* <http://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites/items/DCC-FR.html>
- *Analyse des politiques d’investissement de la Chine à l’étranger:* <http://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites/items/Chine-COMIFAC-fr.html>
- *Partenariat International sur la Gestion des Écosystèmes du PNUE abrité par l’Académie Chinoise des Sciences sous le thème « Le passage au vert de la coopération Chine-Afrique. » Passage au vert de la coopération Chine-Afrique:* <http://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites/items/unep-fr-fr.html>
- *Directives du Gouvernement chinois relatives aux investissements à l’étranger:* <http://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites/items/lies-china-Guidelines-FR.html>
- *IIED : un rapport pose les jalons de la recherche en gouvernance forestière entre la Chine et l’Afrique:* <http://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites/items/IIED-FRFR.html>
- *Dialogue Chine-COMIFAC-PFBC: Toutes dernières publications dans le « Chinadialogue»:* http://pfbc-cbfp.org/news_en/items/DCC-New-ENN.html et <http://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites/items/Dialogue-Chine-Afrique-FR.html>
- *PFBC et Chine - déjà ensemble? - PFBC:* <http://pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites/items/bilan-chine-facilitationallemande.html>

• **Marché 6: Forestry Governance and Land Management: Presentation of advances in certification and legality in the Congo Basin and the Forestry Management Atlas**

Moderator: Alain Penelon, EFI

Marché 6 focused on how different countries and organizations are implementing policies on varied aspects of forest governance including updates on certification, legality and land management in the sub-region.

Presentations were made on the following:

- *COMIFAC Regional Working Group on Forestry Governance – The working group has been established using an inclusive and participatory that included multiple workshops and consultations. It will function as a panel of experts concentrating on operational issues. Agreement has thus far been reached on the overall role and procedures of the working group, a road map with thematic priorities, and an initial set of deliverables*
- *ECOFAV's FLEGT Regional Unit - The unit was set up to improve governance at the local level and help create livelihood opportunities. Its efforts concentrate on communication, sharing experiences and lessons learned, and development of SMEs and small enterprises. Thus far they have established a website, held workshops that addressing structural and organizational development issues of SME forestry operations, and worked on combating illegal wildlife trafficking.*
- *WWF's Analysis of social clauses in forestry concession contracts in DRC: since the DRC government enacted the forest code of 2002, forest concession contracts have included social clauses negotiated between local communities and forestry companies. The clauses, negotiated transparently, provide funds for local development and create a system to manage conflict between companies and communities. Since their inception, social clauses have thus far facilitated \$13 million in direct investment; benefited 1 million people through newly built schools, clinics and roads; strengthened local administrations; and, created 60+ local development funds.*
- *CIFO Research on the impact of forest certification on relations between local communities and forestry companies – The research found that forest certification can play an important role in creating better company-community relations if communication platforms and mechanisms are set up on a horizontal level and implemented in a partnership between company and community. If the companies simply implement them top down without community input there will be no buy in and, perhaps ironically, companies will find minimal value in supporting them.*
- *EC and DFID Projects in Cameroon, DRC and Ghana to promote transparency and good governance in the forestry sector: Implemented through a series of meetings, trainings and workshops, the projects' aimed to to combat poverty through better transparency and governance in the forestry sector, and to raise awareness and exchange information of various initiatives to combat illegal logging and forest exploitation.*
- *A COMIFAC initiative aims to create a regional database and atlas on land use. Supported by GIZ, this project aims to collect and organize a database on land use within the COMIFAC region. The database will be transformed into a regional atlas available to planners and policy makers as they move forward in drawing up strategies, regulations and guides on regional land use planning.*
- *The PEFC certification scheme – The PEFC certification scheme is a new certification approach that responds to complaints of the existing one size fits all certification methods by taking into better account local context. PEFC follows and conforms to FLEGT standards, has been recognized in Gabon, and PEFC-certified products are theoretically accepted in EU countries. However, due to a lack of communication to local producers about PEFC, weaknesses in local capacity to adopt new standards persist, and due to a shortage of funds, no concessions have as yet been PEFC certified in Central Africa.*

Comment: The session was well moderated and attended, with a very attentive audience interested in the content from all the presenters. Unfortunately, the length of the session did not allow for presenters to take questions or in some cases to even complete their prepared presentations. Given the importance of the issue

and the interest shown, it should probably be repeated in some format at the next CBFP meeting, possibly broken up into separate groups clustered around smaller issues such as concession contracts and certification schemes.

General Conclusions of the Market 6 (available in French only):

- 1. Les 2 organisations/ Institutions régionales COMIFAC et CEEAC en charge de la gestion des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement ont une préoccupation forte à promouvoir la gouvernance forestière en Afrique Centrale. Avec des approches différentes, le Groupe de Travail sur la Gouvernance Forestière de COMIFAC envisage de jouer le rôle de réservoir de réflexion pour devenir une force de propositions. Quant à la Cellule FLEGT Régional de la CEEAC, elle porte un effort spécifique dédié à l'APV –FLEGT. Les 2 organisations sont en mesure de produire une réflexion et des actions techniques en soutien à la promotion de la gouvernance forestière à un haut niveau de l'agenda politique régional.*
- 2. Dans l'aménagement et la gestion forestière des concessions, les aspects sociaux sont de mieux en mieux pris en compte. La négociation sur les clauses sociales et les retombées de l'exploitation forestière au profit des populations leur permet de mettre en place des structures de gestion de leur développement. Cette contribution permet d'assurer la paix sociale. Toutefois, elle fait aussi émerger des questions telles que celle de la signification réelle de la notion de communauté.*
- 3. L'atlas d'utilisation des terres en cours d'élaboration est un outil attendu par la COMIFAC pour appuyer les États dans la prise de décisions sur l'usage approprié des terres.*
- 4. La certification panafricaine a suivi toutes les procédures d'agrément pour être reconnue une alternative africaine de certification qui traite de la gestion durable tant de la forêt dans un respect des intérêts simultanés de tous les acteurs et bénéficiaires impliqués que de l'aménagement du territoire. Elle se démarque par une volonté de promouvoir l'identité régionale en conformité avec les standards internationaux.*

Marché 7: The Network of Congo Basin Communications Professionals (RECEAC) Unveils its Road Map;

Moderator: Jérôme Guefack, COMIFAC/PACEBCo

- 1. RECEAC is a response and a tool at the service of the conservation and development community to sustain natural resources.*
- 2. A sub-regional forum currently planning for the extension of the network.*
- 3. Rich lessons and diverse experiences will be shared throughout Central Africa.*

4. Short term goals :
 - Establishing a system of sharing and disseminating information among the network.
 - Establishing a sub-regional information presence on the web.
5. Network Structure:
 - President : Afrique Environnement plus,
 - Vice-president: CEEAC,
 - General Secretary : PACEBO/COMIFAC,
 - Roles : Media : REPAC,
 - national organizations: CIFOR,
 - Ministers: COMIFAC,
 - Executive Council: CBFP

Session 10 Closing Ceremony

Available for Download:

- [Closing Speech - RECEAC's President- Raoul Siemeni: http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-ccr-2011-reader/items/MOP13-en.html?file=docs/news/Nov-Dec-13/RDP13-Libreville/Annexe-RDP13-Session10-mot%20de%20conclusion%20RECEAC.pdf](http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-ccr-2011-reader/items/MOP13-en.html?file=docs/news/Nov-Dec-13/RDP13-Libreville/Annexe-RDP13-Session10-mot%20de%20conclusion%20RECEAC.pdf)
- [Closing Speech -REJEFAC's Regional Coordinator - Marie Tamoifo: http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-ccr-2011-reader/items/MOP13-en.html?file=docs/news/Nov-Dec-13/RDP13-Libreville/Annexe-RDP13-Session10-speech%20rejefac-Cloture.pdf](http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-ccr-2011-reader/items/MOP13-en.html?file=docs/news/Nov-Dec-13/RDP13-Libreville/Annexe-RDP13-Session10-speech%20rejefac-Cloture.pdf)
- [Closing Speech - Private Sector Representative- Praveen Moman, Volcanoes Safaris: http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-ccr-2011-reader/items/MOP13-en.html?file=docs/news/Nov-Dec-13/RDP13-Libreville/Annexe-RDP13-Session10-Praveen%20Closing-Remarks.pdf](http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-ccr-2011-reader/items/MOP13-en.html?file=docs/news/Nov-Dec-13/RDP13-Libreville/Annexe-RDP13-Session10-Praveen%20Closing-Remarks.pdf)
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- [Closing remarks by the Gabonese Representative: http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-ccr-2011-reader/items/MOP13-en.html?file=docs/news/Nov-Dec-13/RDP13-Libreville/Discours%20de%20cloture-Gabon.pdf](http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/actualites-ccr-2011-reader/items/MOP13-en.html?file=docs/news/Nov-Dec-13/RDP13-Libreville/Discours%20de%20cloture-Gabon.pdf)