



CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP

GERMAN-CANADIAN JOINT EVALUATION
Congo Basin Forest Partnership and its
Facilitation for the period 2008-2010

**Report to the Regional Consultative
Committee (CCR)**

27 September 2010

Type II partnership

- Aims to increase the effectiveness of partner interventions for the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems, economic growth and poverty reduction in Central African countries.
- Informal multi-actor network: governments, private sector, civil society organisations and development partners

Categories of CBFP actors

- 10 COMIFAC member states
- 12 partner states (10 northern hemisphere countries + South Africa + European Commission), including a new member (Norway), which joined during the German Facilitation
- 12 intergovernmental organisations, including COMIFAC and two new members (ADB and UNCMS), which joined recently
- 12 non-governmental organisations and research institutions (including a new member, TRAFFIC)
- 6 private-sector members, including two new members, ALPICAM and Precious Woods Holding, which joined during the German Facilitation.

Key terms

- Multi-actor cooperation framework
- Transparency and effective coordination among CBFP technical and financial partners
- Development of synergies among current and future projects and programmes
- Complementary relation between economic development and biodiversity conservation
- Sustainability of project results ensured by incorporating them into national programmes
- Institutional capacity building

Key terms

- Space for dialogue
- Involvement of all the actors in CBFP actions
- Improved transparency in the management of the sector through consultation processes
- Contribution to the goals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), COMIFAC / Yaoundé declaration
- Exchange of information on conservation and sustainable development projects, programmes and policies aimed at improving the living conditions of the peoples of the Congo Basin.

Evaluation methodology

Three key areas of reflection:

- evolution of the partnership and its environment
- evaluation of activities undertaken during the German Facilitation period (2007-2010)
 - institutional strengthening of COMIFAC and partners
 - institutional strengthening of the CBFP; coordination, etc.
 - improved forest governance in Central Africa
 - implementation of the Convergence Plan and conventions
- proposals for the roadmap of the incoming Canadian Facilitation

Evaluation methodology

- Joint team formed by 3 senior experts + support team
 - Participation in ministerial meeting in Brazzaville, mission to Kinshasa, China-Africa meeting in Douala, mission to Bangui, meetings and interviews in Yaoundé
 - Meeting of key people, including several COMIFAC country ministers (6 meetings/5 countries)
 - Detailed questionnaire sent out to all member organisations
 - *Promoting a qualitative approach and the Central African states*
- ➔ Confusion over the term 'CBFP member' noted

Preliminary remark

- The term 'CBFP' is often used by people representing the partners (CBFP members and also non-members) to refer to the partnership as a whole, including all the members in general. It is also used by representatives of the Central African states to refer more specifically to the northern hemisphere partners or to the current facilitation or successive facilitations.
- ➔ causes confusion when reporting the findings of questionnaires and interviews.

Review of results, Paris meeting, January 2003

- The goals and objectives of the CBFP
- Commitments of the members (29)
- New ethic to replace that of the previous partnership in place before the Johannesburg WSSD:
 - reconcile conservation goals with development requirements
 - mobilise more resources for forests in the Congo Basin
 - strengthen national capacities
 - open the CBFP up to countries and international organisations concerned with forests and the environment;
 - promote the integration of civil society and the private forest sector into forest development activities, etc.
- **New provisions and measures to promote this new circle of solidarity: CBFP/COMIFAC/CP**

Review of results, Paris meeting, January 2003

More specifically, it was agreed to support a network of 10 million ha of protected areas and 20 million ha of improved forest concessions.

The CBFP was to work according to the COMIFAC Convergence Plan and its 10 strategic directions to reconcile conservation and socio-economic development.

However, several points that remained pending in January 2003 have still not been satisfactorily resolved and remain on today's agenda, for example, a code of conduct establishing operating rules, particularly for the facilitation; CBFP membership criteria; specific areas of intervention assigned to the facilitation; CBFP monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, etc.

Review of the main stages in the evolution of the CBFP and COMIFAC

July 2010

CBFP

American Facilitation

French Facilitation

German Facilitation

Canadian Facilitation

Creation CBFP

COMIFAC Support Office

CBFP Evaluation

CBFP Evaluation

CBFP Site

SOF 2006

SOF 2008

2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011

4-point CP

OP 2002-2005

CP /10 directions

OP 2006-2008

OP/CP

OP 2009-2011

2 founding councils

COMIFAC Treaty

ECCAS/COMIFAC

Cameroon Presidency

Congo Presidency

Gabon Presidency

Eq. Guinea Presidency

CAR Presidency

DRC Presidency

WSSD 2002
Joburg/SA

Congo Summit
COMIFAC 2005

ECCAS
Summit
2007

DRC Summit
COMIFAC 2010

COMIFAC

Main achievements

- CBFP= innovative initiative unanimously commended
- Space for dialogue, consultation and solidarity
- Space for information and communication
- Members' support for COMIFAC, implementing the Convergence Plan and creating or developing financial mechanisms
- Central position of COMIFAC; support and guidance provided by members to Central African states through various technical/financial mechanisms
- New partners encouraged to join the CBFP
- Support in building common positions for Central Africa on major international issues
- Support for the democratic process with participatory tools maintained by members
- Mediating role played by facilitations or members to build consensus

Main achievements

- Streamlined facilitation mechanism accepted by all with facilitator/ deputy facilitator duo
- Facilitation approach strengthened thanks to Germany, which has built on the previous facilitation and introduced innovations
- Each facilitation has its own technical support network
- The CCR and plenary meetings are operational
- Effective, well documented website
- State of the Forests (SOF) 2006 and 2008, reference documents/Central African forests
- Recognised, positive contribution made by the facilitation and CBFP members in sub-regional, national and international processes.
- Technical support platform (Support Office) for COMIFAC based in Yaoundé with several partners

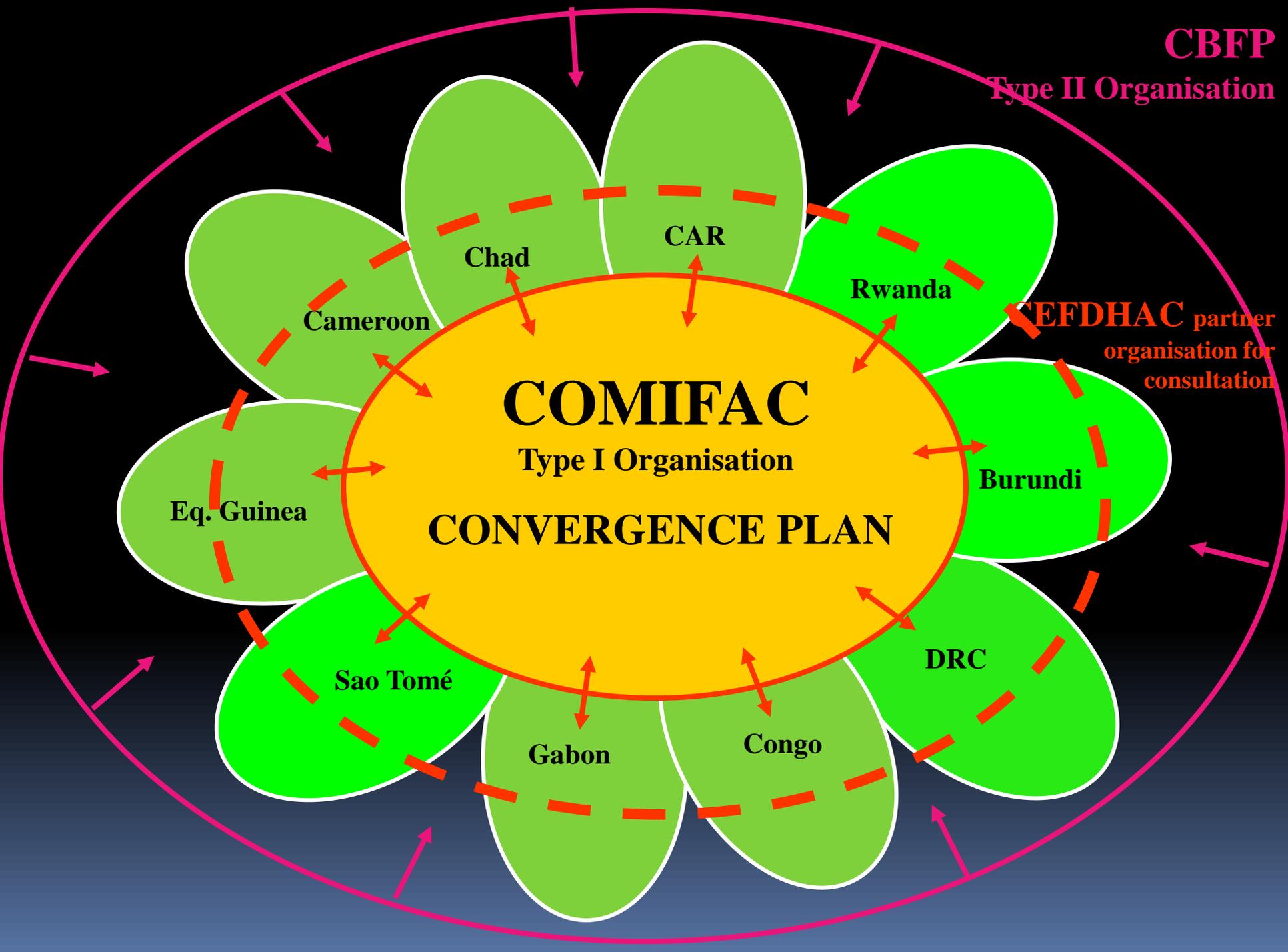
Main achievements

The actions of the facilitation are directly visible or are visible through support projects in:

- influence of COMIFAC in the international arena
- information and communication
- consensus building to develop common positions on international issues and major national problems
- operational structuring and planning
- contribution to integrated planning of partner support for COMIFAC

Main achievements

- mobilisation of new partners
- dialogue with China
- promotion of CBFP structures
- formation and promotion of regional thematic groups
- awareness raising for the ratification of international instruments, particularly the COMIFAC Treaty, etc.
- involvement of civil society, particularly with the reform of CEFDHAC
- the facilitation is a 'moral authority' that increases the partnership's social capital



Main concerns

- Lack of coordination among CBFP partners when they intervene in Central African countries
- Failure of Central African member states to take into account the CP in spite of their commitment to consultation → each country follows its own national priorities.
- For most of the COMIFAC countries, the CBFP is first and foremost a resource mobilisation mechanism implemented for their benefit. They simply ask for more without really feeling committed themselves as CBFP partners, because they are the owners of the forests and not voluntary members like the other countries.
- The non-forest states are not always sure what they are doing in the partnership or what they can get out of it.

Main concerns

- The non-binding nature of the CBFP and the absence of an internal code of conduct undoubtedly limits its influence, although it does facilitate membership.
- Those now responsible for the partnership are not necessarily the same people who designed the CBFP system, which dilutes motivation and the sense of commitment.
- The diversity of areas and activities reduces the visibility of the results in some cases.
- Few members are capable of taking on the CBFP facilitation, owing to financial, technical, human constraints, etc. /inequality.

Main concerns

- The CBFP sometimes gives the impression that it is developing into a formal institution, when it is in fact an informal network. This is perhaps due to the German approach, often regarded as somewhat rigid.
 - The functions of the deputy facilitator need to be clarified to ensure that they are better understood, particularly by the Central African states.
 - The plenary and CCR sessions are regarded as forums for exchanging information, but there have been calls for a stronger role in the areas of monitoring, the coordination and coherence of initiatives, positioning, etc.
- ➔ ***without specifying how this can be achieved.***
- The German facilitation roadmap is very dense, which can sometimes give an impression that things are unfinished.

Main concerns

- The information disseminated often goes no further than the people directly involved in regional processes, particularly in the case of the Central African states.
- The COMIFAC autonomous financing mechanism is not yet in place; COMIFAC remains weak, and some states reject this mechanism even now.
- COMIFAC/CBFP/Yaoundé Declaration dynamics have not been sufficiently taken on board in the Central African states. National coordinating bodies and forums remain weak.
- Degree of CP implementation remains low, even though it is time to start thinking about revising and updating it.
- The implementation of national forest programmes is behind schedule and should include the strategic directions of the CP.
- Gender issues are not sufficiently addressed.

Main proposals/way forward

- Launch another communication effort to re-explain the concept of the CBFP and its relationship with COMIFAC, the Convergence Plan, etc. for new people who have joined member organisations and lack institutional memory
- Prepare a code of conduct for the CBFP to provide a more effective framework for its operation and relations among the partners
- Clarify eligibility criteria for the CBFP network
- Clarify the roles and functions of the facilitation and its team, the areas of intervention and the limits for the partners and particularly the Central African states
- Facilitate the integration of the CP in national forest programmes

Main proposals/way forward

- Maintain COMIFAC at the centre of CBFP activities and clarify its relationship with the ECCAS
- Introduce flexibility into the overall facilitation approach and thoroughness in the actions carried out in order to have a global vision of initiatives in Central Africa
- Work to ensure the continuity of previous activities (communication, information, thematic groups, common positions on international issues, consultation and dialogue, support for resource mobilisation, etc.)
- Further develop the COMIFAC support platform, facilitate the integration of partners and thus relaunch the COMIFAC ad hoc advisory committee
- Formulate a global support programme for COMIFAC, facilitating synergies among partners

Main proposals/way forward

- Promote the formation of ad hoc groups (national consultative committees), bringing together the partners in the Central African states to improve the flow and consistency of information on programmes in progress and support for the host state.
- Promote the reform of COMIFAC partner institutions and permanent financing for them
- Promote the implementation of a mechanism to capitalise on knowledge, achievements and experience for partners and Central African states
- Support a mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of the Convergence Plan and impact assessment
- Promote the use of the networks of the different partners by the facilitation, in accordance with their specific technical and thematic characteristics
- Support the thematic focal points in the Central African states and COMIFAC's national coordinating bodies

Main proposals/way forward

- Plan a periodic high-level meeting in the CBFP, smaller than the CCR
- Make the CCR operating procedures more easily readable
- Strengthen and enhance information mechanisms to be further ahead of decision-makers
- Continue putting pressure on Central African states and ECCAS to implement COMIFAC's autonomous financing mechanism / crucial measure
- Develop information and training activities for financial resource mobilisation
- Support technical capacity building for the COMIFAC ES and facilitate recourse to external service providers / consultancy firms for the preparation of dossiers, etc.

Main proposals/way forward

- Promote discussion with the partners on their involvement in the CBFP and on the future of their network in the long term
- Plan a report to take stock of the facilitation with regard to the roadmap/programme
- Continue efforts to recruit new partners, particularly such as are capable of taking on the facilitation in the future
- Continue the dialogue with China
- Continue to pursue the operating principle of the facilitation team, with a north/south duo, supported by the facilitator's networks in the different countries and those of its CBFP partners /theme and country

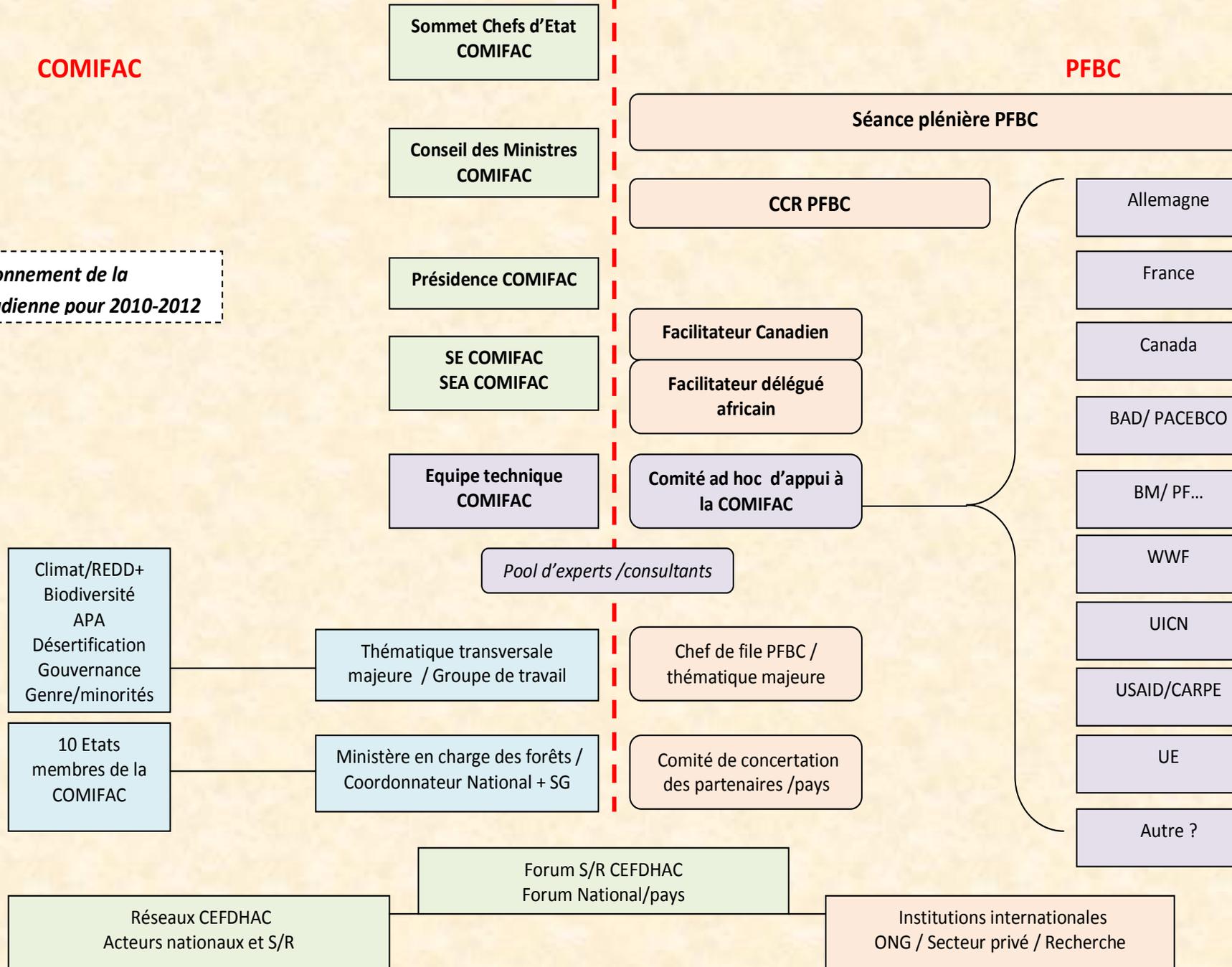
Main proposals/way forward

- Set up a sub-regional working group on gender issues and initiatives
- Integrate men-women equality into a cross-cutting approach within the CBFP, the revised Convergence Plan and national and sub-regional programmes
- Strengthen reflection on poverty reduction and monitoring the impact of forest exploitation
- Address the problem of land management, zoning and mining/forest/agriculture conflicts

COMIFAC

PFBC

Vision du positionnement de la facilitation canadienne pour 2010-2012





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION