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**International workshop on
«FOREST GOVERNANCE AND
SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS»**

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Under the patronage of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC)

Report – November 2010

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1 ABBREVIATIONS

AFLEG	Africa Forest Law Enforcement and Governance
ATIBT	Association technique international des bois tropicaux
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CCBS	The Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standards
CCR	Comite Consultatif Regional
CBFP	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
CEFDHAC	Conférence sur les écosystèmes des forêts denses humides d'Afrique Centrale
COMIFAC	Commission des Forets d'Afrique Centrale
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation Agency
HCVF	High Conservation Value Forests
IFIA	Interafrican Forest Industries Association
IFL	Intact Forest Landscapes
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MA&D	Market Analysis & Development Concept
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
WRI	World Resource Institute

2 INTRODUCTION

The Executive Secretary of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) organized with the support of German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)¹ on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) an international workshop on “Forest Governance and Sustainability Standards in the Congo Basin”.

The three day workshop aimed at bringing together international and national actors as well as decision-makers in a multi-stakeholder-environment and had the objectives to (i) explore synergies between regulatory approaches and voluntary standards and gain an understanding how new regulations in importing countries can impact producing countries / voluntary standards systems; (ii) advance knowledge in applying voluntary standards and related mechanisms as instruments for sustainable management; and (iii) deepen knowledge on recent market developments in the global markets;

The agenda (see annex 1) covered three themes, spread over the three workshop days:

- ✓ Day 1: Forest certification and land use planning & transboundary forest conservation
- ✓ Day 2: FLEGT process and voluntary standards – instruments to reduce illegal logging and associated trade
- ✓ Day 3: Standards as a promoter of striving towards sustainable development and trade

The workshop was officially opened by the Dem. Rep. of Congo Minister for Environment, Conservation, Nature and Tourism, His Excellency José Endundo Bononge, and moderated by Mr. Martin Tadoum, Deputy Executive Secretary of the COMIFAC.

3 DAY ONE: FOREST CERTIFICATION AND LAND USE PLANNING & TRANSBOUNDARY FOREST CONSERVATION

3.1 Opening Ceremony

- **Mr. Daniel Haas, representative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** highlighted in his opening speech Germany’s commitment to foster cooperation and harmonization among partners jointly working with COMIFAC and its ten member countries for improved forest governance and forest management in the region. BMZ observes that the general demand for regulatory processes (land use planning, legality assurance systems, public procurement policies) and for voluntary sustainability standards has increased significantly and their interrelations are expected to gain increasing importance.
- **Mr. Gaston Grenier, new Canadian Congo Basin Forest Partnership-Facilitator** emphasized in his address the complementarities of the two approaches of “legality” and “voluntary standards”. In his view both aim at conservation and development, while increasing the commercial value of tropical timber and sustainably linking the central African markets to the global markets. He further outlined the roadmap of the new Canadian CBFP-facilitation which is based on the fight against poverty, and explicitly supports the idea of increasing the commercial value of central African timber for the benefit of local populations.
- **Ms Ellen Shaw, representative of the US Department of State**, saw the workshop in the same light as the Comité Consultative Régional (CCR) of the CBFP which took place the previous two days: a platform for open discussions between different actors in the sector with sometimes diverging opinions. Referring to the U.S. Lacey-Act which prohibits the import of illegal timber and

¹ Organizational support was provided by the GTZ [programme ‘Social and Environmental Standards’](#), HQ Eschborn, Germany, and the regional GTZ [project ‘Support to the COMIFAC’](#), based in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

timber products Ms Shaw invited interested stakeholders to exchange more in depth on the Lacey-Act.

- **Mr. Raymond Mbitikon, Executive Secretary of the COMIFAC**, pointed out that legality and certification are very important topics in the sub-regions efforts towards sustainable forest management in Central Africa. These are also manifested in the Convergence Plans' strategic axe 1 and 5. After congratulating the COMIFAC member states for their efforts in the FLEGT-process Mr. Mbitikon stated that he regards the workshop as a possibility to explore synergies between legality and voluntary standard approaches in the forest sector.
- **His Excellency Jose Endundo Bononge, Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism in the Democratic Republic of Congo** compared the Congo Basins' Forests to a sick patient surrounded by many doctors. The amount of doctors makes it appear to be a serious case but gives hope at the same time. Pronouncing his gratitude to the international community, which helped to create a lot of capacities in the respective ministries, his Excellency pointed out that cooperation with the civil society is absolutely necessary in order to achieve the common goal of a better valorization of forest resources. Pointing at the fact that he will soon, instead of speaking for the DRC only, speak on behalf of the ten COMIFAC member states in his new function as president of the COMIFAC, he declared the working session to be opened.

3.2 High Conservation Value Concept (HCV)

The morning session was divided into two blocks of presentations and discussions to cover the themes of the High Conservation Value (HCV) concept and Payment for Environmental Services (PES) with the focus on REDD+ in the Congo Basin.

The first sequence of presentations gave an introduction into the concepts of 'High Conservation Value' (HCV) and 'Intact Forest Landscapes' (IFL) in the context of biodiversity protection, forest management and certification. The guiding questions for this theme block were: (i) What are possible mechanisms to enhance application of HCV Forests in certified concessions and communal forests on national and regional scale? (ii) What is the current status and experiences gained from the HCV-concept in the Congo Basin? (iii) How can the concept be scaled up in land use planning processes? (iv) Can the Intact Forest Landscapes concept be integrated in HCV assessments?

3.2.1 Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) High Conservation Value Forest Concept and Principle 9 application in the Congo Basin

Mr. Richard Robertson
Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) International

Mr. Robertson presented the concept of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) and how to account for this concept in sustainable forest management, FSC certification and land use planning. High Conservation Value Forests are defined as areas that have exceptional social and/or environmental importance. The concept is part of the FSC standard framework of global principles and criteria (9th Principle) and needs thus to be taken into account by each concessionaire aiming at becoming FSC certified / compliant. Mr. Robertson reminded that FSC follows a precautionary approach whereas explicit and effective measures are taken to prevent the damage and avoid the risks to welfare. Prior to the certification process, an assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with HCVF must be completed. This assessment is based on a consultative process of forest experts and local stakeholders, in which the entire forest concession needs to be assessed. These findings need then to be reflected in the management options which shall be annually monitored to assess the effectiveness of these measures to enhance or maintain the identified high conservation values.

Various categories of HCVF are distinguished, of which all have in common they recognize one or more of the following attributes: (i) specific biodiversity values (e.g. endangered species); (ii) the role of the forest in a threatened ecological system; (iii) their economic, ecological or cultural importance for local populations.

The definition of HCVF used in the context of forest certification is developed at a regional level, e.g. as part of a regional standard in the Congo Basin. FSC International is however the only entity that can validate these regional standards and its proposed definitions.

The difference between the concepts of HCVF and Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) is rather related to the scale of pristine or non-fragmented forests. Next steps for a new FSC taskforce will be to integrate the IFL concept into the concept of HCV Forests in order to harmonize these two approaches and to broaden the application of HCV concept in land use planning/zoning processes in the region.

3.2.2 Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs): The earth's last remaining large un-fragmented areas of natural forest

Ms Karine Jacquemart
Greenpeace International

Ms Jacquemart introduced the concept of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL). In her presentation she shared the idea about the importance of unfragmented pristine forest types and the vision of Greenpeace on zoning and land use planning that determines and considers the value of forests. Ms Jacquemart stressed that the concept of IFL has not been developed by Greenpeace but by the World Resource Institute (WRI). It is based on cartography work where satellite images were used to produce a map showing the last remnants of intact forests on earth. Intact Forests are defined as un-fragmented forest landscapes with more than 50.000 ha and a canopy density of more than 20%. Especially the attribution of being un-fragmented is crucial to the value of these forests. Ms Jacquemart reminded that this attribution also plays a role in the HCVF concept of FSC.

For the first time high-resolution satellite images were used to identify large intact forest areas globally.

- ✓ The Intact Forest Landscape (IFL) approach has been developed to reframe our thinking and attitude to these last remaining large areas of forest
- ✓ to shift from considering them as a vast resource to exploit, to treasured remnants providing ecosystem services that are critical to making the Earth habitable.

According to Ms Jacquemart, the position and conclusion of Greenpeace on how to protect IFLs is evident:

- ✓ Industrial logging and conversion of IFL's must be stopped;
- ✓ Forestry and logging must remain outside IFL's and should at least comply with FSC standards;
- ✓ Comprehensive networks of protected areas at all scales must be established which consist of strictly protected areas and core zones as well as community protected areas and buffer zones, allowing for small-scale and low-impact forest use.

In her final conclusion Ms Jacquemart criticized that FSC only works on forest management and has not yet developed ideas and solutions on conservation approaches.

3.2.3 Africa Wood For Life (AWFL)

Ms Caroline Blanchard
Interafrican Forest Industries Association (IFIA)

Ms Blanchard presented the Africa Wood For Life (AWFL) Foundation which brings together FSC certified forest enterprises operating in the Congo Basin. Their objective is to have at least 10 million ha of forests in the Congo Basin certified by 2015. At present, their members manage 15 million ha of forests in the region of which 4.5 million ha are already certified.

In the context of the "Intact Forest Landscapes" concept, the foundations' position is based on an ethical charter, which recognizes the dangers of unsustainable forest management, and offers a strong commitment to FSC and the "FSC spirit" of open dialogue with stakeholders. The charter calls for an ethic of transparency, the development of clear standards and quality improvement at the level of management plans, industrial processing and commercial communication. Beside the ethical charter, the foundation and its members have a firm agreement to halt the exploration for new concessions as long as no comprehensive zoning has been conducted and no scientific research on forest vulnerabilities and are available. The long term vision of AWFL is the promotion of FSC certification which needs to be based on a credible regional standard.

In the second part of her presentation Ms Blanchard referred to the economic, social and environmental importance of the forests in the Congo Basin and outlined the various conflicts of interest between different economic actors such as the forest and mining sector on one hand and social and environmental interests on the other hand. The response of AWFL and its members IFIA and ATIBT to these challenges is to concentrate on sustainable forest management in concessions. Ms Blanchard however stressed also the fact that local economies need to be developed and strengthened in order to reduce the pressure on forest resources and to concentrate on the local communities itself in order to create sustainable livelihoods. Ms Blanchard proposed controlled exploitation and the development of a healthy balance between conservation and exploitation in order to better face the issue of deforestation and to satisfy local needs.

3.2.4 Discussion

- ✓ The definition of IFL based on the attribute of canopy cover was criticized as being random, as usually the concept of forest canopy cover is defined by the percentage of light that reaches the soil. This does however not tell anything about the quality of the biodiversity. The use of satellite images to determine human activity has also been criticized as being rather vague. Greenpeace responded that the objective of this work had been to obtain first ideas on the state of the forest surface and that further verification on the ground needs to be done. Greenpeace further emphasized they do surely not assume the absence of any human activity in those forests but rather wanted to highlight the fact that these forest areas have not yet been significantly altered.
- ✓ It has been conceded that there is no real regional standard on HCVF yet. The example of Gabon was given where it seems that each concessionaire has their own approach. The audience was informed that IFIA/ATIBT in cooperation with FSC is already in the process to consolidate the definitions in the regional FSC standard. This work is still in process and will be further discussed during consultations on the sub-regional FSC standard in early October 2010 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.
- ✓ The representatives of the autochthon people argued that forest management is an elementary part of the solution for rural poverty reduction.
- ✓ Greenpeace was challenged to define how far they are willing to go in order to support the valorization of forest resources by the local population, e.g. through community forestry? The discourse against industrial forest exploitation should not remain on a rhetorical level only. Greenpeace affirmed that solutions should be found based on the initiative of local populations, which constitute true promoters of development.
- ✓ The private sector reiterated its engagement to sustainably manage their forest concessions and stressed that this has been an important choice already which almost equals a “mini cultural revolution” for their sector. The companies are supported by IFIA/ATIBT to be able to fulfill the technical requirements of certification, but highest importance remains in securing markets so that the sector can continue to invest in certification. It was stressed that in future it would be preferable to also focus on the remaining 130 million ha which are not yet managed by the private sector.
- ✓ FSC affirmed that forest certification is voluntary and that for the moment the private sector responds mainly to market pressures in order to fulfill customer demands for sustainably managed forests. FSC is ready to develop tools for the certification of other management types such as protected areas but cannot demarcate new protected areas themselves. Greenpeace confirmed the ambition to develop a common vision for the not yet allocated forests.

The government sector reminded that values of the IFL and HCVF concepts depend on the capacities of the promoters to adapt to management concepts which exist already in the sub region for almost 40 years (division in three categories). It is the responsibility of the external actors to value and accept these ideas. The political officials certainly appreciate the sincere will to bring and create innovative management tools, but these must be based on existing categories and have also to contribute to an economic development of the forestry sector.

3.3 Payment for Environmental Services (PES)

The presentations gave an outline of the various forms and concepts of PES with reference to the Congo Basin and linked those schemes to the question of necessary pre-requirements such as land use planning. The guiding questions for this theme block were: (i) To which extent can sustainability standards foster public and private PES schemes? (ii) What are the main potentials and challenges for the public and private sector regarding REDD+? (iii) How can standard initiatives advance the REDD+ process?

3.3.1 Overview of PES schemes in the Congo Basin

Mr. Cleto Ndikumagenge
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Cameroon

Mr. Ndikumagenge described Payment for Environmental Services (PES) schemes as remuneration of an economic agent (buyer) for the provision of environmental services by another agent (seller) for an intended activity aiming environmental preservation, conservation or restoration. These are voluntary agreements based on clear conditions which are defined by the concerned parties. PES schemes are based on clearly specified geographic areas and aim to avoid having negative impacts on other (neighboring) areas. Thus forest certification as market-based system is a catalyst for potential PES schemes. In short, Mr. Ndikumagenge summarized, that PES schemes compensate the service providers for lost opportunity costs and desired environmental services (like clean water, fresh air or the sequestration of carbon).

In the Congo Basin different projects and approaches are presently in preparation or already implemented. Examples of Cameroon show economic incentives of 960 - 2260 US\$ per ha of forest through e.g. carbon sequestration. Mr. Ndikumagenge however reminded in his conclusions that the implementation of PES schemes is challenging as it is not always evident to clearly associate an environmental service to a desired result, nor do local populations always hold land titles to prove their ownership and tenure rights for the land they live on. Another challenge lies according to him in the difficulty to associate and calculate economic values to opportunity costs and to reduce transaction costs which can amount to up to 25%. In the context of poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor and disadvantaged the question of equitable and fair benefit sharing mechanisms remains.

3.3.2 Mitigation, Sustainable Forest Management & Land Use Planning

Michel de Galbert
World Bank (WB), USA

According to Mr. de Galbert, there are three different forms of mitigation in the forestry sector: (i) carbon storage within a standing forest by either avoided deforestation or by planting a forest; and carbon storage outside forests in form of using wood as e.g. construction material; (ii) substitution of fossil fuels by woody biomass as renewable energy source in e.g. power plants, and (iii) reducing energy consumption, in e.g. improved stoves. Plantation forestry could increase primary biological productivity up to 40 times compared to sustainable management practices in natural forests and avoids consuming primary forests. Also agro forestry systems contribute to increase carbon stocking and contributes directly to REDD+ and poverty alleviation. Mr de Galbert emphasized need to further increase the total of certified forests; on the long run sustainable forest management may have better mitigation effects than the total preservation option, and summarized the different forest options and their economical and environmental services in a qualitative matrix. He explained the three different levels of REDD+ interventions (preparation, capacity building and operation) and related activities in the region and updated on the discussion on emission trading mechanisms.

3.3.3 REDD+ and Land Use Planning: Developing Mapping and Monitoring Systems

Bruno Hugel
UN-REDD, DRC

Mr. Hugel outlined that though DR Congo consist of around 145 million ha forests hitherto no national land use planning has been conducted. With increasing competition between the various sectors and

the emergence of REDD+ and biodiversity conservation, land use planning will however be a precondition. He argues that in this context a multi-stakeholder approach will have to be followed to ensure that various sectors are involved in the land use planning process. It will be pivotal to develop a comprehensive tool to assist this process taking into account the various factors and visions of the country in the mid and long term (nat. strategies till 2012 – towards green economy). This planning process needs also to focus on the needs of the population to ensure a sustainable development of the country. Voluntary standard initiatives such as FSC or CCBS are important to contribute in transparent monitoring for socio-economic and environmental requirements in national REDD mechanism. How to utilize potential synergies between voluntary standard initiatives and a national REDD scheme in DRC are in discussion with the REDD committee. Mr. Hugel showed in his presentation some examples of REDD programs or projects in the DR Congo which are focusing on e.g. improved agriculture production in order to reduce deforestation for land clearing, the implementation of community forestry as a way to facilitate the sustainable management of forest resources, the creation of fuel wood plantations to reduce pressure on existing forests, afforestation and improvement of soil fertility on more than 10 million ha of degraded land.

3.3.4 Discussion

In the following discussion the debate evolved around the question of “who pays what to whom”? Participants acknowledged that it would be unrealistic to assume that PES is a blueprint to solve all problems. According to IUCN and UN-REDD it is clear that these payments must arrive at the level of local communities. The development of such an allocation and benefit sharing mechanism is an important step that needs to be well established. The challenge will also be to keep transaction costs low to ensure the bulk of funds are guided towards the targeted beneficiaries. In this context it was reiterated that the REDD+ concept consists of three phases with different payments involved: (i) readiness; (ii) success in the implementation of the payment scheme (by 2012); and (iii) payment on the basis of results.

3.4 Working Groups

In the afternoon three working groups were formed on the themes of HCV, PES and REDD+. The groups were asked to discuss the following questions: (i) How can each concept guide intersectoral land use planning (national & transboundary)? (ii) What are potentials / challenges of the mechanisms in the Congo Basin? What can be the next steps? (iii) What kind of cooperation between governmental, private sector and standard systems can facilitate this process? (iv) How can HCVF, PES & REDD+ concepts achieve an integrated sustainable land use system?

3.4.1 Group 1: HCV

- ✓ The group noted the close links of the HCVF concept with zoning of conservation and forest concessions, as well as reduced impact logging.

3.4.2 Group 2: PES

- ✓ Overall the group stated that PES schemes are not yet well established in the Congo Basin.
- ✓ To ensure that PES schemes can be applied in the region the concept itself must first be better understood. It is necessary to increase capacities on these concepts and to ensure the various political levels have a good understanding on these.
- ✓ It was encouraged to initiate a study on PES schemes to identify lessons learned and to distribute these to all COMIFAC member countries.

3.4.3 Group 3: REDD+

- ✓ REDD+ itself offers great opportunities for the countries in the region. It is recommended that the concerned Ministries work together in order to work out and implement a joint land use planning approach and strategy.
- ✓ In the process of REDD+ a development component must be assured. Nevertheless it should be clear that REDD+ will not solve all our problems.

4 DAY TWO: FLEGT PROCESS AND VOLUNTARY STANDARDS – INSTRUMENTS TO REDUCE ILLEGAL LOGGING AND ASSOCIATED TRADE

4.1 Presentations and Discussions

During the second day the question of the contribution of regulatory approaches such as FLEGT and voluntary standard systems to halt illegal logging and associated trade were elaborated.

4.1.1 Why Voluntary Standards Systems (VSS)?

Mr. Stefan Essel

GTZ Programme Social and Environmental Standards, Germany

Mr. Essel elaborated on the question why voluntary standard systems are useful as market based instruments. He outlined the various interests and demands, namely the (i) private sector which aims for market differentiation, transparency, positive reputation or risk-management within their supply chain, (ii) public sector which is concerned about its reputation as well as social and environmental conditions, and (iii) the customers who are concerned about product safety, quality and sustainability. He further presented VSS as a management tool to operationalize sustainable economic development in supply chains and production systems. Current trends indicate strong interests for VSS entering mainstream markets. In his conclusion he identified opportunities of standard schemes in the forestry sector, particularly as a tool to address illegal practices and to respond to new prospects such as REDD+ and PES. He however stressed that concerted action of stakeholders in collaboration and dialogue with governments are required to fully harness this potential.

4.1.2 Implementation of wood traceability systems in Cameroon

Mr. Briand Mintyene

Ministry of Forestry, Cameroon

In his presentation Mr. Mintyene gave an overview of a wood traceability approach on the example of an EU funded project in Cameroon. This project responds to the need of such a system in the context of the VPA FLEGT agreement. The aim of the project is to trace wood from its source to the port of departure in Cameroon with the objective to put into place a system that guarantees the legality of the wood and ensures FLEGT criteria are met. The system consists of three steps: (i) a thorough forest inventory, (ii) global positioning of the resource, and (iii) an identification and monitoring system that allows tracking and identification of the timber logs from the forest to the port. Furthermore it serves as verification means to ensure forest operations are in line with forest management plans.

4.1.3 FSC's approach to pursue from legality to responsible forest management

Elie Hakizumwami

FSC Regional Office, Cameroon

Mr. Hakizumwami reminded that the EU FLEGT action plan concerns four key regions and countries, notably South America, Central Africa, Russia and South East Asia. Together they possess around 60% of the world's forest resources and provide the majority of timber imported into the EU. Core of the FLEGT action plan is the system to verify the legality of the wood, whereas legality is defined along economic, social and environmental parameters. In comparison he outlined that forest certification such as FSC is going beyond verification of legality only. It strives in addition towards a holistic system of sustainable forest management. In his conclusion he noted that there are areas of complementarities between both approaches especially on the question of legality criteria. As a possible way forward he proposed a step wise approach from legality towards sustainable forest management. As a first step a FLEGT certificate could be recognized in the certification process and vice versa, a certification license will pave the way for a FLEGT license. He further reminded that there is no blueprint as every region and country has specific and unique attributes. He nevertheless believes that the FSC criteria on good forest management could serve as international recognized norm.

4.1.4 FLEGT action plan and voluntary certification

Mr. Emmanuel Heuse

FLEGT special envoy, DRC

In his presentation Mr. Heuse gave a comparative analysis on the FLEGT action plan and voluntary certification schemes. He noted that both systems have the objective to enhance sustainable forest management. However their approach is different whereas a voluntary certification scheme is based on private standards and FLEGT on public laws. He stressed that even though both systems aim for sound forest management, there are significant differences. Private certification schemes focus on enterprise and concession levels, but FLEGT attests the legality of wood in an entire country in order to be able to export to the EU markets. Furthermore FLEGT offers a stepwise approach towards sustainable forest management. He also reminded that such a system needs to be flexible enough to also account for local needs. In 2011 a sub regional conference is planned on this topic in relation to communal forestry.

In his conclusion he encouraged identifying and using synergies between those two systems in order to create complementarities and to avoid the impression of two systems in isolation but rather establish a mechanism where both systems can complement each other.

4.1.5 The link between legality and sustainability – The approach of Rainforest Alliance (RA)

Mr. Jervais Nkoulou
Rainforest Alliance, Cameroon

Mr. Nkoulou presented the Smartwood certification and verification approach of the Rainforest Alliance. Besides being the world's leading FSC forest management certifier, Smartwood offers a diverse set of additional certification and verification schemes such as verifying the legal origin (VLO) of timber its legal compliance (VLC). He pointed out the differences between "legal origin" and "legal compliance": legal origin is about meeting the administrative requirements of permitting, planning, taxes or fees, and harvesting in defined areas. Legal compliance however encompasses a broader range of laws on environmental protection, wildlife, water and soil conservation, harvesting codes and practices, worker health and safety, and communities rights. Both schemes – VLO and VLC – are seen as stepping stones towards FSC certification in an approach that has been developed by the Rainforest Alliance called SmartStep. Mr. Nkoulou further elaborated on the question why verification of legality is so important in the context of widespread illegal use of forest resources. He listed four main reasons: (i) supply of FSC certified timber remains for the moment relatively low in the Congo Basin; (ii) The forests of the Congo Basin have a reputation of being poorly managed and classified and wood sources are at high risk; (iii) Demand for verified legal and traced wood is increasing; and (iv) the interests and economies of local communities in the sub region need to be protected. On the question whether legality is sufficient, Mr. Nkoulou pointed out that legality itself is no indicator for sustainable forest management. He therefore reiterated that the full completion of SmartStep is desired which guides towards achieving full FSC certification and thus sustainable forest management.

4.1.6 Legalising the informal markets – FLEGT impacts for smallholders

Dr. Benno Pokorny
University of Freiburg, Germany

In his presentation Mr. Pokorny argued that most efforts on sustainable forest management focus on environmental and economic goals and that it is wrongly assumed that these will automatically lead to local peoples' benefits. Legalization often creates requirements incompatible with local capacities, with only moderate success to include local people. He further noted that the legal and institutional schemes are not sufficiently attractive for poor local forest dwellers, and too far away from local realities. As response to this, (i) local populations continue informal uses of forests (and – as a consequence of "improved" legal frameworks - shift into illegality), (ii) stop their use of forest resources (in case of effective law enforcement), (iii) may become dependent from NGO's (needed to overcome technical, legal and institutional barriers), or (iv) even more intensively collaborate with – often illegal acting - loggers. In conclusion he argued that forest management as defined by law requires capacities and resources which are not available at local level and therefore tend to exclude local people from legal markets. He further concluded that current efforts for standardizing and legalising the commercial use of forests may generate local benefits however they are limited and questionable, in particular in the long run. He proposed to legally acknowledge traditional tenure, access or user rights and to legalize local ways of using forests.

4.1.7 FLEGT and Council Forests – Opportunities for domestic wood markets

Mr. Louis Bernard CHETEU
Technical Center for Communal Forestry, Cameroon

In Cameroon, a council forest is classified as permanent forest with the council as land title holder. These forest domains are managed and used by the council under the control of the Forest Ministry. All forest products deriving from these forests are the possession of the council. To date only 8 forests have been so far classified as council forests covering around 190.000 ha. As the FLEGT process covers all wood products of a country, council forests are also affected. Hitherto no council forest has targeted international markets yet. Nevertheless the councils will aim to comply with the FLEGT process and strive to meet the necessary targets. It is however expected that for cost reasons a FLEGT verification process will not be initiated in order to serve domestic demands. Mr. Cheteu specified the FLEGT issue for council forests on two examples:

- (i) Controlled exploitation of the council forest by the community itself:
 - a. Wood destined for export will require FLEGT authorization;
 - b. Wood destined for domestic market will require prove of legality;
 - c. For wood transformed into a finished product with the aim to export, there is presently no provision under the FLEGT process. This scenario offers a loophole for illegal wood!
- (ii) Controlled exploitation of the council forest by an enterprise:
 - a. Wood exploited for export purposes requires FLEGT authority; the wood waste however will be fed into the domestic markets.

Mr. Cheteu expressed his confidence that the FLEGT process offers communities and councils the opportunity of being the main supply source for legal wood for the domestic markets. He however raised concern on how to control the informal markets and whether the FLEGT process will have an impact on benefit sharing mechanisms within the council. He further raised the question whether the FLEGT process will lead to local development?

4.1.8 Discussion

In the discussions that followed the presentations a number of issues and questions were addressed:

- ✓ The question on how to deal with wood from countries where traceability systems are not in place was raised. This issue is pivotal to the success of FLEGT processes. It was assured that all wood will be verified at the port of departure. Wood arriving from other sources and countries must have an authorization or certificate recognized by the government. A pilot project to trace wood in the three countries of CAR, Cameroon and Congo has been submitted to FAO for approval.
- ✓ In the context of FLEGT it is important to understand that only timber producing and exporting countries are part of this process, so countries such as Chad are not targeted.
- ✓ What role does traceability play in FSC certification? FSC has two different certification approaches: (i) Chain of Custody certification, and (ii) Forest management certification. FSC certified concessionaires adopt the FSC CoC certification system to be able to label their products with the FSC trademark along the supply chain. Under the FLEGT approach traceability of wood is mandatory.
- ✓ What became of the AFLEG process and what links has it got with FLEGT? AFLEG requested African governments to be involved in the legality discussion. It did not take trade into consideration but limited itself to the policy level. With FLEG-T the trade perspective entered the debate.
- ✓ In the context of smallholders, it was stressed that sufficient legal freedom for smallholder needs to be created to ensure their traditional ways of using the natural resources.
- ✓ In many debates indigenous people and their forest use is referred to as being sustainable. It is important to understand that this romanticized image does not always reflect the reality. With arriving opportunities these communities will most likely also commercially use their resources and in some cases also in unsustainable and illegal ways. This is a challenge to NGO's supporting those communities.
- ✓ An explanation on the expression of "bad actors" was demanded. Mr. Pokorny explained that he indicates those as "bad actors" who make use of the opportunity to exploit (and abuse) local communities. Legal requirements are often not defending the rights of local communities as they

are either geographically too remote and / or their capacities are insufficient to fully grasp the complexity of the existing laws and their rights.

- ✓ In the debate of legality the question of legitimacy needs to be addressed. Local communities need to be granted their traditional access and tenure rights and need to be consulted in questions related to forest management.
- ✓ Following the presentation on council (communal) forestry in Cameroon, the question arose what the difference is between council and community forestry? Council forests are owned and managed by the council and fall into the classification of permanent forests. Community Forests are forests for the community and non permanent, so the land can be converted into agriculture land.

4.2 Working Groups

Three working groups were formed to discuss along guiding questions: (i) Which procedures are needed to use added values by complementing regulatory systems with private standards? (ii) Is it realistic to have only winners in the process – what are the main challenges? (iii) What are the possibilities for linkages at national and regional levels respectively?

The members of the groups were divided into an administration, civil society and private sector group, to reflect the various stakeholder views.

4.2.1 Group 1: “Administration”

- ✓ The national FLEGT criteria for legality should be integrated into private standard systems.
- ✓ Considering the legal control mechanisms required for certification and the FLEGT approach, possibilities and short cuts should be foreseen to avoid duplication and devote the available limited resources to criteria not yet covered in the certification audits.
- ✓ In terms of a road map the group proposed that first the government needs to define the legality framework which is consistent with the national requirements. They further proposed to think about a COMIFAC label that guarantees the legality and conformity with national law of the product. In this context reference was given to a 2008 minister meeting where this idea has already been agreed on. On this issue there will be further consultation of all stakeholders.

4.2.2 Group 2: “Civil Society”

- ✓ To synergize regulatory systems with private standard initiatives, with the aim to reduce conflicts of leadership and interests in favor of sustainable forest management, is challenging. For the Congo Basin however this utilization of synergies could be possible as sub regional initiatives such as COMIFAC and CBFP are already in place to facilitate these dialogues. This process needs however to be accelerated and should be supported by the development partners.
- ✓ Regional exchange of experiences and ideas needs to be facilitated in the sub region and with other regions to ensure lessons learned are identified and integrated into this process.
- ✓ Concern was raised on the potential impact of FLEGT on informal markets. These markets do generate large amounts of money that will cease to be available if FLEGT is strictly implemented. As a consequence there might be negative impacts on local populations, informal entrepreneurs and markets. In this context the question was raised what will happen with the seized illegal wood? One solution proposed was to use it for public projects.

4.2.3 Group 3: “Private Sector”

- ✓ The dialogue between promoters of voluntary certification schemes and regulatory initiatives (FLEGT) is at a critical stadium. This dialogue should take place regularly to ensure a mutual enrichment and coherent evolution of both instruments. Further should this dialogue aim to integrate the concerned countries of Central Africa in this debate.

- ✓ Ways to harmonize these two instruments need to be explored at the level of procedures but especially at the level of chain of custody of wood products. For FSC the traceability procedures are based on regular on-site audits and information on the origin is provided to the consumers. For FLEGT it is foreseen that the traceability will be systematic and permanently for all wood products of a country (linked to a national mandatory database). The information is however only followed until the port of the exporting country.

5 DAY THREE: STANDARDS AS A PROMOTER OF STRIVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

5.1 Presentations and Discussions

5.1.1 Development of small and medium sized forest enterprises – the MA&D Approach

Mr. Marcel Useni Kembolo
FAO, DRC

Mr. Useni presented the Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) concept as a tool to support local communities in the identification and valorization process of forest products in order to generate income and sustainably manage their forest resources as small and medium sized entrepreneurs. The objective is to strengthen local economies and to increase the incomes of communities. The approach consists of three main phases: (i) An inventory to identify available forest products, and to analyze the existing capacities of the future entrepreneurs and identify products that are already marketed; (ii) Short listing and selection of products to be marketed according to social, technical, environmental and market criteria. (iii) Development of a business plan and identification of needs, linkages and cooperation opportunities.

5.1.2 SFM Standards and attention to climate change bring a new strategy for economic sustainability

Ms Caroline Blanchard,
Interafrican Forest Industries Association, France

According to Ms Blanchard Europe is the largest wood consumer in the world. About 25% of the wood is imported, whereas the demand tends towards finished products that need to be assembled only. The market in Asia is increasing but concentrates mainly on raw material. Overall European consumers are sensitive towards environmental and social aspects and increasingly demand certified and legal wood products. In order to meet requirements of the European market IFIAs' strategy is to improve the utilization of waste products from wood processing, as well as engage in carbon stocking and emission reduction activities.

In her presentation Ms Blanchard pointed out that the informal forest sector uses about the same amount of wood as the official one. It is therefore imperative to ensure that the VPA FLEGT process also stimulated the utilization of legal timber in the domestic markets.

IFIA has initiated a new project on 'Transformation and Local Markets in the CB' (IFIA, ITTO, FAO). In Cameroon this project has four working groups on:

- Strategies of investment to push the transformation of wood
- Taxation
- Commercial barriers to regional markets
- Integration of informal markets into local economy

Other groups will be formed in other countries of the region i.e. in DRC.

5.1.3 African Eco-labeling Mechanism (AEM)

Kelvin Khisa,
African Eco-labelling Mechanism Project, Kenya

Mr. Khisa presented the African Eco-labeling Mechanism (AEM) as a means to address the challenges of climate change and tool for export promotion of African products. He argued that eco labels are a means for businesses to measure performance and to market the ecological credentials of a product. For consumers they are a guide for purchasing decisions providing information about the origin, mode of production or "the world" behind the product. Priority sectors for AEM as benchmarking

system for voluntary standards utilized in Africa are for the moment Forestry, Fishery, Agriculture and Tourism.

5.1.4 European public procurement policies for timber products and impacts on the market for certified products

**Sofie Tind Nielsen,
The Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET), United Kingdom**

Ms Nielsen outlined that CPET is a UK funded and ProForest operated entity with the objective to provide information on the UK Government's timber procurement policy requirements, advice on how public sector buyers and their suppliers can meet the policy, and to support UK Government.

At EU level several members have passed public procurement policies for timber to respond to concerns on illegal logging and climate change mitigation. In March 2013 a due diligence regulation will be put in place that prohibits the placement of illegally harvested timber or products on the EU market. This is equivalent to efforts of other countries such as the US (Lacey Act) or Japan, Norway, Australia and others. These regulations have a significant spillover effect on the private sector already. As verification for legality the FLEGT license will be used. In countries without FLEGT processes, other evidence such as certifications schemes will be used. In her concluding comments Ms Nielsen calls for more cooperation on the assessment of certification schemes to harmonize the process of different timber procurement policies in Europe.

5.1.5 Agriculture, palm oil and the maintenance of tropical forests – The role of sustainability standards

**Dr Christopher Stewart,
HCV Resource Network, United Kingdom**

Mr. Stewart informed that palm oil production is a rapidly growing business whereas 85% of the production originates from two rainforest nations – Indonesia and Malaysia – only. In the Congo Basin the production of palm oil is widespread and some big expansion plans are in the pipeline. Oil palm has however been a major driver for deforestation. Besides large forest losses the expansion of palm oil has according to Mr. Stewart also major negative social and cultural impacts. In response to increasing public pressure, the palm oil industry created in 2004 the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). A first standard was launched in 2008 with eight principles. As part of these principles existing plantations must take into consideration rare or threatened species and HCV, whereas new plantations do not replace primary forest or areas required to maintain or enhance High Conservation Values. To date there are 19 certified producers covering around 600.000ha.

5.1.6 Discussion

In the panel discussions questions could be further clarified:

- ✓ The question was raised whether there is a demand for a further label such as AEM? Mr. Khisa stressed that the AEM label will not be a stand-alone one but one that will complement existing ones. There will not be competition to existing initiatives but if other standards wish, the AEM will recognize them through a specific process. The AEM is a political initiative supported by the African Union (AU), NEPAD, African Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP), and others. It was further specified that the unique value of the AEM consists of the combination of ecological (especially climate relevant) and social (issues such as HIV) criteria as well as the creation of a truly African brand. According to AEM there is a demand on markets, especially on the international ones, which is also triggered by the political endorsement of the above organizations.
- ✓ Against the backdrop of the development of the palm oil sector in South East Asia, particularly in Malaysia and Indonesia, the question was raised what measures are necessary to prevent this scenario for Africa? It was reminded that demand for palm oil will increase until 2050 when 9 billion people need to be fed on the earth. Against this background and the challenges mentioned, effective land use planning and sustainability standards for the production of palm oil are indispensable. The challenge will be to reduce the impact of palm oil production on biodiversity, infringement of land right uses and its contribution to climate change. In this context one should however also see the positive side of palm oil such as its high productivity of oil per hectare.

- ✓ What is the link between the UK procurement policy and FLEGT process? Ms Nielsen outlined that the public procurement policies have all started with the requirement of legality. The UK procurement policy is meant to be a step from legality towards sustainable forest management. Hence countries in the region should be encouraged to engage in the FLEGT process.
- ✓ In this context the question was raised how the UK will ensure sustainability if FLEGT does not include sustainability criteria? FLEGT and sustainability criteria however do intersect as provision is made for health, safety and other issues. There is sensitivity that some issues such as biodiversity are not necessarily included. Studies have proven though that if all applicable laws in Africa were enforced, most sustainability requirements would be met.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK IN CLOSING REMARKS

Dr Dietmar Schorlemer
GTZ Program “Support to the COMIFAC”, Cameroon

In his final conclusions, Mr. Schorlemer reminded the participants of the pertinence of the topic of forest governance and sustainability standards for the region. The Congo Basin represents the second largest forest cover after the Amazon region and hence plays a crucial role in the context of international climate change efforts and at regional and national levels as engine for local economies, livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. He urged the audience to use the momentum that has been created at the workshop to hang on the idea to sustainably use the forest resources in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way. He stressed that the findings of the workshop emphasized once more on the need for comprehensive inter-sectoral land use planning at national and regional level that could apply instruments developed by sustainability standards such as the high conservation value concept (HCV). In this context there is also a need to integrate the concept of Intact Forest Landscapes into the approach of HCV. He further summarized that cooperation to work on identifying synergies between voluntary standards such as FSC or PEFC and regulatory approaches (e.g. REDD+, FLEGT, procurement directives) between producer, wood processing and consumer countries should be intensified and used to ensure a maximum impact to advance legal and sustainable forest management and trade patterns. Here the COMIFAC needs to play an important role as mediator and facilitator. In a broader picture he reminded that standards have been confirmed as important safeguards for sustainable forest management and supply chain management. In future these will play an increasingly crucial role in the context of REDD+ and other PES mechanisms. Here the Congo Basin should play a leading role at international levels and use their competitive advantage as region with high forest cover. Mr. Schorlemer underlined the economic and social potential the region has to become a spearhead for tropical forest certification and sustainably managed tropical forest. Once more the role of the COMIFAC is important to harmonize efforts at regional level.

Mr. Raymond Mbitikon
Executive Secretary of the COMIFAC, Cameroon

In his closing remarks the Executive Secretary of the COMIFAC, Mr. Mbitikon congratulated the participants of the workshop to their active and fruitful contributions. He summarized that there are various ways and opportunities for regulatory approaches and voluntary standards to benefit from each other. This discussion should however continue at a regional scale to ensure the momentum that has been created at the workshop will be harnessed. He proposed that the Working Group on Forest Governance under the COMIFAC takes on some of the themes and issues discussed at the workshop to ensure solutions and results are achieved at a sub regional level. He reminded participants that the COMIFAC is a suitable vehicle to have regional outreach and participation and indicated the willingness to facilitate such debate.

Links:

<http://www.gtz.de/de/themen/uebergreifende-themen/sozial-oekostandards/33062.htm>

<http://www.gtz.de/de/themen/uebergreifende-themen/sozial-oekostandards/16975.htm>

ANNEX I – AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

International Workshop
“FOREST GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS IN THE CONGO BASIN”
29th September till 1st October 2010

Objective

The three day workshop aims at bringing together international and national actors as well as decision-makers in a multi-stakeholder-setting in order to

- Explore synergies between regulatory approaches and voluntary standards and gain an understanding how new regulations in importing countries can impact producing countries / voluntary standards systems
- Advance knowledge in applying voluntary standards and related mechanisms as instruments for sustainable management
- Deepen knowledge on recent market developments in the global markets.

Participants will discuss expert inputs in order to better promote sustainable forest and agriculture land use management on regional level.

Day I – 29th September 2010

“Forest certification and land use planning & transboundary forest conservation”

08.00 Registration

09.00 Opening Ceremony (Mr. Essel, GTZ; Ms Shaw, US DoS; Mr. Haas, BMZ; Mr. Grenier, CBFP, Mr. Mbitikon, COMIFAC; H.E. J.E. Bononge Minister DRC)

09:30 Morning session: Expert inputs

Introducing concepts in the context of biodiversity & climate change (HCVF, PES, REDD+) and the potential synergies between national / regional approaches and project based certification.

1. High Conservation Value Concept (HCV)

Expert Inputs (each 15 min.):

- *HCV and land use planning of forest areas (R. Robertson, FSC Int.)*
- *HCV and Intact Forest Landscape concept (C. Jacquemart, Greenpeace International)*
- *HCV assessments in forest concessions (C. Blanchard, IFIA)*

Key questions to address:

- What are possible mechanisms to enhance application of HCV Forests in certified concessions and communal forests on national and regional scale?
- What is the current status and experiences gained from the HCV concept in the Congo Basin?
- How can the concept be scaled up in land use planning processes?
- Can the Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) concept be integrated in HCV assessments?

Discussion (15 min.)

10:30 Coffee break and networking

- 11:00** **2. Concept of Payment for Environmental Services (PES) with the focus on REDD+ in the Congo Basin**
- Expert Inputs (15 min. each):
- *Overview of Public and Private market schemes (C. Ndikumagenge, IUCN)*
 - *REDD+, Sustainable Forest Management & land use planning (M.d. Galbert, World Bank)*
 - *REDD+ and land use planning: Developing Mapping and Monitoring Systems (B. Hugel, UNREDD)*
- Key questions to address:
- To which extent can sustainability standards foster public and private PES schemes?
 - What are the main potentials and challenges for the public and private sector regarding REDD+?
 - How can standard initiatives advance the REDD+ process
- Discussion** (15 min.)
- 12:00** **Lunch**
- 13:30** **Afternoon session: 2 working groups on introduced concepts**
- Guiding questions for discussion:
- How can each concept guide intersectoral land use planning (national & transboundary)?
 - What are potentials / challenges of the mechanisms in the Congo Basin? What can be next steps?
 - What kind of cooperation between governmental, private sector and standard systems can facilitate this process?
 - How can HCV Forests, PES & REDD+ concepts achieve an integrated sustainable land use system?
- 14:45** **Coffee break and networking**
- 15:15** **Presentation of working group results with Discussion** (each 15 min.)
- 17:00** **Wrap up**
- Expected outputs:**
- Increased knowledge of HCVF, PES and REDD+, the role of sustainability standards, impacts on land use planning
 - Recommendations to foster ownerships by governments
 - Stakeholder / Participants identify current challenges as well as possible options for cooperation and next steps.
- 17:30** **End of Workshop**
- 19:00** **Dinner with reception** (COMIFAC Sec.)

Day II – 30th September 2010:**“FLEGT process and voluntary standards – instruments to reduce illegal logging and associated trade”**

- 09.00 Introduction of the day / agenda of work**
- 09.15 Morning session: Expert inputs** (each 15 min.)
- *Why Voluntary Standards – Standard systems as management tool* (S. Essel, GTZ)
 - *Developing national traceability systems* (B. Mintyene, MinFOF Cameroon)
 - *FSC’s approach to pursue from legality to sustainable forest management* (E. Hakizumwami, FSC Africa)
 - *FLEGT and voluntary forest certification – mutual support for enhancing sustainable forest management* (E. Heuse, FLEGT Special Envoy in DRC)
- 10.15 Coffee break and networking**
- 10.30 Expert inputs** (each 15 min.)
- *Linking Legality with Sustainability* (J. Nkoulou, Rainforest Alliance)
 - *Legalizing the informal markets - FLEGT impacts for smallholders* (B. Pokorny, University of Freiburg, Germany)
 - *FLEGT timber trade on domestic markets - perspective from communal forest users* (L.B. Cheteu, Communal Forest Association, Cameroon)
- 11.15 Panel Discussion**
- 12.00 Lunch**
- 13.30 Afternoon session: 3 Working groups**
- Guiding Questions:
- Which procedures are needed to use added values by complementing regulatory systems with private standards?
 - Is it realistic to have only winners in the process – what are the main challenges?
 - What are the possibilities for linkage at national and regional level respectively?
- Expected outputs: Recommendations for Roadmap of relevant stakeholders
- 15.30 Coffee break and networking**
- 16.00 Presentation of working group results and discussion**
- 17.00 End of day II**

Day III – 1st October 2010**“Standards as a promoter of striving towards sustainable development and trade”**

- 09.00 Introduction of the day / agenda of work**
- 09:15 Morning session: Expert inputs (15 min. each)**
- *Market developments for certified tropical African timber (F. Hioi Hioi, African Timber Organization (ATO)) – **Cancelled***
 - *Small scale enterprise development – FAO Market Dev. & Analysis Concept and standard schemes (M. Useni, FAO DRC)*
 - *Marketing networks - Africa Wood for Life Initiative (C. Blanchard, IFIA)*
 - *Introduction of African Eco label Mechanism as benchmarking system for African Products (K. Khisa, African Eco Label Mechanism Project)*
- 10.15 Coffee break and networking**
- 10.45 Expert inputs (each 15 min.)**
- *European public procurement policies for timber products and impacts on the market for certified products (S. Tind Nielsen, Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET))*
 - *Sustainable Palm oil and maintenance of tropical forests – sustainability standards as safeguard to make both possible (C. Stewart, Pro Forest)*
- 11.45 Wrap up**
- 12.00 Lunch**
- 13.00 Afternoon session: Panel discussion**
- A panel discussion with the speakers will focus on the following guiding questions:
- What are current trends regarding sustainable sourcing and environmental finance?
 - Best Practices and outlook – what are large companies doing? How are sustainability standards used for long term profit and competitiveness?
 - How do public procurement policies in consumer countries currently change? What are the implications for producers?
 - What can benchmarking systems achieve?
 - What can standards systems and regulatory processes do jointly to progress sustainable economic development?
- Expected outputs:
- Experience exchange on the rising demand for certified products and trends towards a green economy
 - Advanced knowledge on the relevance of sustainability standards for sustainable development & sustainable sourcing
 - Increased understanding of interlinkages between European procurement policies and Agro- & Forest enterprises in the Congo Basin
- 14.30 Coffee break**
- 15.00 Closing Remarks / Outlook (D. Schorlemer, R. Mbitikon)**
- 15.30 End of workshop**

ANNEX II – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



COMIFAC / GTZ International Workshop

Delegate List

Forest Governance and Sustainability Standards in the Congo Basin

September 29th till October 1st 2010

N°	Name	Organisation/Country	Capacity
1.	Andrea CEDERQUIST	Greenpeace Germany	Biodiversity Campaigner
2.	Benno POKORNY	Albert-Ludwig University, Germany	Senior Researcher
3.	Bienvenu NGOY	CEFDHAC	President
4.	Briand MINTYENE	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MinFoF), Cameroon	Representative of Director
5.	Bruno HUGEL	UNREDD, Dem. Republic of Congo	Special Envoy
6.	Bruno PERODEAU	WWF CARPO, Dem. Republic of Congo	Forest Adviser
7.	Carlos DEWASSEIGE	Observatoire des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale, Dem Rep. of Congo	Regional coordinator FORAF
8.	Caroline BLANCHARD	Interafrican Forest Industries Association (IFIA)/ International Technical Tropical Timber Association (ATIBT)	Project Officer
9.	Christian HAGEMANN	GTZ Program Social and Environmental Standards	AEM Adviser
10.	Christopher STEWART	ProForest / HCV Resource Network	Associate Director / Network Manager
11.	Cleto NDIKUMAGENGE	International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) West and Central Africa	Deputy Facilitator Congo Basin Forest Partnership
12.	Cornelia SEEGER	GTZ Sector Program Internat. Forest Policy, Germany	CBFP Coordinator

13.	Daniel HAAS	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Deputy Head Division 316, Environment and sustainable use of natural resources
14.	Danièle FOUTH	GTZ Regional support for COMIFAC, Cameroon	Adviser
15.	Dietmar SCHORLEMER	GTZ Regional support for COMIFAC, Cameroon	Head of program
16.	Edouard ZAMA	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	Focal Point FLEGT / Certification
17.	Elie HAKIZUMWAMI	Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Cameroon	FSC Regional Director Africa
18.	Ellen SHAW	Department of State, United States of America	
19.	Emmanuel HEUSE	Belgian Development Agency (BTC), Dem. Republic of Congo	Facilitation FLEGT
20.	Fanny RODRIGUEZ	SIFORCO, Dem. Rep. of Congo	Environmental Manager
21.	Francoise VAN DE VEN	Timber Industry Association DRC	Man. Director
22.	Gaston GRENIER	Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), Canada	Canadian facilitator
23.	Gilbert KAYA	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	Focal Point Certification
24.	Gordian FANSO	FSC International, Germany	Project Officer
25.	Guy MERCIER	High Commission of Canada, Cameroun	Conseiller et Chef de la Cooperation Canadienne,
26.	Hans SCHIPULLE	Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)	German Facilitator
27.	Irène WABIWA KYEMBWA	Greenpeace Africa, Dem Rep. of Congo	Forest Campaigner
28.	Jaques TUNGUNI	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	
29.	Jaroslav TYMRAK	PEFC International, Switzerland	Head of Technical Unit
30.	Jean Etienne MORGANT	BIVAC, Partner from Bureau Veritas, Dem. Rep. of Congo	Responsable des Opération
31.	Jervais NKOULOU	Rainforest Alliance, Cameroon	SmartWood Representative
32.	John FLYNN	USAID CARPE, Dem. Rep. of Congo	Regional Director USAID Carpe
33.	Kapupu DIWA MUTIMWANA	Ind. Pepole Assoc. (REPALEAC), Dem. Rep. of Congo	Regional Coordinator
34.	Karine JACQUEMART	Greenpeace International, Netherlands	Africa Forest Coordinator

35.	Kelvin KHISA	African Eco Labeling Mechanism (AEM), Kenia	Executive Manager
36.	Lars EKMAN	Norwegian Embassy, Angola	Development Counsellor
37.	Louis Bernard CHETEU	Communal Forest Association, Cameroon	Technical Director
38.	Marcel USENI	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Dem. Rep. of Congo	National Coordinator
39.	Marie Louise ELLA B.		Focal Point Certification
40.	Martial PAGE	Canadian embassy, Dem. Rep. of Congo	Chief of Mission
41.	Martin BOSTROEM	German Entwicklungsbank KfW, Germany	Chargé de projet principal Afrique Sub- Saharienne
42.	Martin TADOUM	Executive Secretariat COMIFAC	Secrétaire Exécutif Adjoint
43.	Michel DE GALBERT	World Bank, United States of America	Senior Forestry Specialist
44.	Michel PRE	Embassy of France, Gabon	Responsable régional Coopération France
45.	Nene MAINZANA	Réseau des communicateurs de l'environnement (DRC)	National Coordinator
46.	Peter SCHAUERTE	GTZ Regional support for COMIFAC, Cameroon	Technical Adviser
47.	Pierre METHOT	World Resource Institute, USA	Director Central Africa
48.	Philippe DUCHOCHOIS	Cooperation France	Conseiller Ministère
49.	Raymond MBITIKON	Executive Secretariat COMIFAC	Secrétaire Exécutif
50.	Raymond NDOMBA NGOYE	Ministère des eaux et forêts, de la pêche, du Reboisement charge de l'environnement et de la protection de la nature	FLEGT Focal Point
51.	René NGONGO	Greenpeace Africa, Dem. Rep. of Congo	Senior Forest Campaigner
52.	Richard ROBERTSON	FSC International, Germany	Policy Manager
53.	Samuel EBIA NDONGO	Ministère de la Forêt et de la Faune au Cameroun	Forest Director
54.	Samuel MAKON	Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)	German Co- Facilitator
55.	Sandra HIEKE	Greenpeace International	
56.	Sofie Tind NIELSEN	Central Point of Expertise for timber procurement (CPET), United Kingdom	Project Manager

57.	Stefan ESSEL	GTZ Program Social and Environmental Standards, Germany	Program officer
58.	Sylvain NZE NGUEMA	Directeur General adjoint des Eaux et Forêts;	Focal Point FLEGT
59.	Tal MOULNANG	Tchad	National Coordinator
60.	Théodore MBARO	Ministère de l'environnement, des eaux, forêts, chasses et pêches Central African Republic	Focal Point Certification Directeur Général des Eaux Forêts Chasse et Pêche
61.	Thomas PICHET	European Forest Institute (EFI)/ EU FLEGT Facility, Finland	Legality Assurance System Expert
62.	Thorsten HUBER	GTZ Regional support for COMIFAC, Cameroon	Technical Adviser
63.	Yannic DECLEIRE	GTZ Support to Implementation of National forest and Environmental Program Cameroon	Forestry and Environment Adviser
64.	Yvonne SANSA		

ANNEX III - SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES



**International Workshop
Forest Governance and Sustainability Standards in the Congo Basin
Kinshasa (DRC), 29 September till 1 October 2010**

Speaker biographies

Richard Robertson, Policy Manager, **FSC International**

Richard Robertson is the FSC Policy Manager for Forest Management and Controlled Wood (FM) and he moved to this role on 1 August 2010. His main responsibilities are to develop and maintain FSC policies and standards in the core area of forest management certification and controlled wood. Mr. Robertson also represents FSC externally on issues such as legality, public procurement and biodiversity.

Prior to this role, Mr. Robertson was Policy Manager in charge of coordination and development of FSC national standards worldwide and continues to coordinate this area of work for the time being, including the Congo Basin Sub-regional Standards processes.

He has been part of the FSC network for the past 7 years as consultant to FSC IC and staff member of FSC UK. He has conducted international studies including on High Conservation Values in China and Russia, Controlled Wood in the Congo-Basin and forest certification in Malaysia.

A forester by training, with over 15 years of experience, Mr. Robertson has extensive practical forest management expertise focusing on small forest projects and local markets for wood products as well as advising on national forest policy, incentives for responsible forest management and government timber procurement initiatives.

Martin Kaiser, Head of International Climate Politics, **Greenpeace**

From 1989 until 1997 Martin Kaiser worked for ESRI GmbH, Kranzberg, on Geographic Information System's organisation and management, as well as the German Federal Environmental Agency UBA and the Bavarian Agency for Forests and Forestry, on forest ecosystem research, inventory and nature conservation. Mr. Kaiser did some project work for the Office of Technology Assessment for the German Parliament (TAB), in Bonn, on biodiversity and developing countries. 1997 till 1998 Martin Kaiser was the first Secretary of the German FSC Working Group to promote timber coming from ecological and socially fair managed forests. Since 1998 he has worked for Greenpeace as a Campaigner for Forests and Biodiversity, as well as project and campaign leader for Greenpeace Germany and International. 2008-2009 Martin Kaiser has been the coordinator of climate politics for Greenpeace International. Since 2010 Martin Kaiser coordinates climate politics and REDD politics for Greenpeace Germany.

Cleto Ndikumagenge, Deputy Facilitator of **Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)**

Cleto holds a diploma in industrial engineering, rural engineering, water and forestry and a MSc in system agro-sylvo-pastoral management in the tropics. He has several years of experience in many

African countries and used to work in different Forestry Projects for the World Bank and the FAO. From 2007 onwards he worked within the IUCN as the coordinator of the Forest Conservation Program for West and Central Africa. In October 2010 he became the deputy facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). Cleto is a member of ITTO Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) and Deputy Coordinator of the RIAT Réseau International.

Michel de Galbert, Forestry Senior Specialist, **World Bank**

Before Michel was appointed to work at the World Bank he was the Managing Director of the Forestry Ownership Center, Rhône-Alpes Area for about 10 years after being the Regional Managing Director of the National Forestry Office (ONF) in Bourges (France). In former times he already had different leading positions in agricultural directions and ministries in France and abroad. Some of his focuses are the greenhouse effect and forests (writing a book: "Le défi forestier", 2006), silviculture close to

the nature and the certification of good forestry management. He got work experience in Brazil, Cameroon, Republic of Congo and Guadeloupe.

Bruno Hugel, Carbon Technical Advisor, **UN REDD DRC**

Bruno has many years of experience in the field of environment and planning. He worked as a capacity building advisor for VSO-CBO and as a consultant for sustainable livelihoods for NatureUganda. Furthermore he was working for the WWF as a consultant and project manager for several years. Among other things he was the project manager of a community tree planting project, aiming the provision of the city of Goma with fuelwood by creating tree plantations with local farmers as alternatives to the park natural forests and as a poverty alleviation & local development tool. Since 2010 he is the Carbon technical advisor of REDD National Coordination in DRC.

Carsten Schmitz-Hoffmann, Head of Section "Agricultural Trade and Standards" in the Planning and Development Division, **Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)**, German Development Cooperation

Carsten is heading the GTZ Section for Agricultural Trade and Standards which consists of different programmes and projects all related to trade, standards and international supply chain improvement processes. In that function he is also head of the Programme for Social and Environmental Standards. Carrying a degree in political science with a focus on development politics and development policy, he joined GTZ in 2001 and started working in the Division "Agriculture, Food and Fisheries" to develop and establish Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and strategic alliances in agricultural commodity sectors. Among others, Carsten was involved in the conceptual design, development and establishment of PPP alliances such as the Common Code for the Coffee Community (which later institutionalised itself as the 4C Association), the PPDC project in Ivory Coast ("Market-oriented promotion of certified sustainable cocoa production" with Rainforest Alliance), the GRASP project ("Good risk based agricultural social practices" with GlobalGAP) or the global Adaptation for Smallholders to Climate Change (AdapCC) Project. As Head of GTZ's Programme for Social and Environmental Standards he is coordinating the programme's activities in the forest-related agricultural commodities, social standards, industrial processing agricultural supply chains and standards for climate friendly production systems.

The Programme consists of a team of 18 experienced experts in the field of sustainable development, standards development and standards setting. It is commissioned and core funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), but also receives funding from other public European donors. Additional to its core competences in advisory service, innovation and knowledge management, the Programme manages and backstops several operating Public Private Partnership projects with numerous globally operating enterprises.

Elie Hakizumwami, Regional Director, **FSC Regional Office Africa**

Elie Hakizumwami is holder of MSc in Natural Resources Management. He has 32 years of multidisciplinary experience in the domain of natural resources management. Since 1978, Elie

assumed a series of duties related to forest resources. In August 2010 he joined FSC after 13 years (7 years with IUCN and 6 years with WWF) of the work in the Congo Basin where he assumed different key regional positions such as the coordination of regional networks including the Sustainable Use of renewable resources Initiative (SUI), Specialist Group and African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG), the Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN); Regional Forestry Programme (WWF-Central Africa) and Regional Coordinator for Central Africa.

He also advocated for the promotion of responsible forestry in the Congo Basin through strong partnerships between key forestry actors and donors. He participated at a series of international, regional and national events where he got the opportunity to advocate in favour of conservation and sustainable forest management of Congo Basin forests.

Elie provided support to the development of FSC Regional Standard for the Congo Basin and contribute to the development of the tools related to the conservation and sustainable management of the forests such as the Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of the Protected Areas Management (RAPPAM) and the Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (PAMETT), the Landscape Approach and the adaptation of the ATO/ITTO Principles, Criteria and Indicators to the context of Congo Basin countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, DRC and Gabon).

He conducted also a series of socio-economic and environmental studies for the benefit of promotion of sustainable management of natural resources and development of local communities.

Emmanuel Heuse, Facilitation FLEGT, **FLEGT Special Envoy in DRC**

Dans le cadre du fonds d'étude et d'expertise de la coopération belgo-congolaise, Emmanuel HEUSE assure la facilitation du processus FLEGT en République Démocratique du Congo depuis septembre 2009. Il s'efforce d'y informer et d'y associer autant que possible les différentes parties prenantes du

secteur forestier aux travaux de préparatoires de l'ouverture des négociations de l'Accord de Partenariat Volontaire entre la RD Congo et l'Union européenne, laquelle est prévue à Bruxelles en octobre 2010.

Auparavant, il a travaillé dans la promotion de la certification forestière indépendante et de la foresterie communautaire au Cameroun (1999 – 2006), puis pour le développement rural du Nord Equateur en RD Congo au sein de l'ONG congolaise CDI Bwamanda (2007 – 2008).

Jervais Nkoulou, SmartWood Representative, **Rainforest Alliance**

Jervais Nkoulou est ingénieur forestier de formation. Il travaille pour le programme SmartWood de Rainforest Alliance depuis 3 ans, d'abord comme Représentant au Cameroun et actuellement comme coordonnateur Afrique. Dans ses fonctions, il est chargé de promouvoir la certification FSC, les services de vérification de la Rainforest Alliance, préparer et conduire les audits puis collaborer avec les entreprises forestières et autres parties prenantes de la gestion forestière en Afrique et particulièrement dans le bassin du Congo. Avant cela, M. Nkoulou a travaillé au groupe Vicwood Thanry comme Ingénieur aménagiste puis au projet GEF Campo-Ma'an comme assistant de recherches.

Benno Pokorny, Senior Researcher, **Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg**

Benno Pokorny studied forest science at the University of Freiburg, Germany. After his PhD dissertation about second-growth *Nothofagus* forests in Chile, since 1998, he had been working in the regional office of the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Belém, Brazil, researching opportunities for sustainable forest management. Still associated with CIFOR, since 2003 he is Assistant Professor at the University of Freiburg. In several international research projects he is dealing with the question if and how natural resources (in particular forests and trees) in tropical and subtropical regions could be effectively used for sustainable development for the benefit of local people.

Louis Bernhard Cheteu, Directeur Technique, Centre Technique de la Forêt Communale, **Communal Forest Association (CTFC) Cameroon**

M. Louis Bernard Cheteu, est Ingénieur Forestier, et titulaire d'un Diplôme d'un Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA) en gestion durable des forêts, d'un Diplôme d'Aménagiste Forestier de l'Association Technique International des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT), d'un Diplôme de Biologiste du Bois et de plusieurs autres attestations de formation en gouvernance forestière, en gestion scientifique des données, en production de l'information Agricole ,en changement climatique, en gestion des projets et en élaboration des projets obtenus tour à tour au Cameroun, au Nigéria, en République Démocratique du Congo, au Sénégal, en Belgique, en Autriche et en France; il exerce depuis 1999 comme Expert Forestier /Consultant / Chercheur forestier / Enseignant orienté vers la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers tropicaux africains et les changements climatiques. Depuis novembre 2009, il occupe le poste de Directeur Technique du Centre Technique de la Forêt Communale (CTFC), maître d'œuvre du Programme d'Appui à la gestion durable des Forêts Communales au Cameroun (PAF2C).

Kelvin Khisa, Executive Manager, African Eco Labeling Mechanism (AEM)

Before joining the AEM, Mr. Khisa was the deputy director of the Kenya National Cleaner Production Centre (KNCPC) for over 10 years. He is a holder of a masters degree in Environmental Sciences and Technology. While at the KNCPC, he was involved in the promotion of resource use efficiency and cleaner production among Kenyan businesses in a wide range of economic sectors. He has had formal training in climate change mitigation and adaptation with a focus on the Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM). Now he is in charge of the AEM that is a pan-African mechanism that seeks to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns on the African continent through eco-labelling. The AEM seeks to promote intra African and International trade within the context of a changing climate regime. The initial priority sectors of the AEM are agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism.

Sofie Tind Nielsen, Project Manager, Central Point of Expertise for Timber Procurement (CPET)

Sofie is the manager of the Government's Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET) which supports the implementation and compliance with UK's timber procurement policy. She holds a MSc in sustainable land use and natural resources management and is a biologist by training. Sofie has several years' field experience from temperate and tropical forest research projects and worked for the Danish environmental ministry before joining CPET four years ago. She has professional expertise and experience with the process of developing public procurement policies for timber and an extensive knowledge of forest standards and certification.

Dr. Christopher Stewart, Associate Director/Network Manager, ProForest/HCV Resource Network

Christopher is the manager of the HCV Resource Network, which is a global multi-stakeholder organisation dedicated to maintaining **critical social and environmental values of forests and other ecosystems as part of responsible land management**. The Secretariat of the HCV Resource Network is provided by ProForest, of which Christopher is its Associate Director. His professional background is in biology, forest ecology and tropical plant physiology, and his experience includes ecological field research, developing conservation frameworks within natural product standards, auditing and certification, and training and capacity building. He spent several years as a project manager in the biopharma and food industries, specialising in high-value crops such as medicinal plants and oils, and also worked for the UK Government, directing the UK Technology Programme's support for Environmental Technologies, including policy development and funding for technological innovation.

ANNEX IV – OPENING SPEECHES

Opening Remark of Ms Ellen Shaw, Department of State, USA

“Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to participate today. It is a pleasure to be here. We have just finished two days of meetings of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, and I must say it was satisfying to see the progress that has been made in the last eight years since its launch at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

It has become a true partnership with everyone pulling in the same direction for long-term sustainability of the region's forests. The foundation of that partnership is trust, mutual respect, and common purpose. That, too, has been growing through our continued dialogues and collaboration under the CBFP for the past eight years. It has not been easy, but people have been committed and they have remained at the table even when they disagreed. Because of that, the partnership stands as an example now for other forested regions. Today's gathering, as I understand it, may serve as the beginning of a dialogue on forest governance, with what looks to be a very challenging set of issues.

The keys lie in partnership – real partnership – and rock solid political will and commitment from all corners to transform challenges into opportunities, and to achieve what we all wish for the region: healthy ecosystems and, ultimately, secure and prosperous people.

I was asked to say a word about the U.S. Lacey Act for the sake of tomorrow's discussion on illegal logging and FLEGT. This is a 100-year-old law in the United States that was amended in 2008 to prohibit imports of wood and products from wood illegally taken from the source country. Many misunderstandings exist about this law, which is only one of many tools the United States is using to fight illegal logging. It is not a certification scheme and it puts the burden of proof on the U.S. government. There is not time to discuss it in detail here but suffice to say that we will be happy to talk with interested people about it. We are developing a plan for outreach and education about the Lacey Act, and we welcome ideas.

I wish you good luck and bon courage in your discussions this week.”

Opening Speech of Mr. Raymond Mbitikon, Executive Secretary of COMIFAC

**Excellence Monsieur le Ministre de l'Environnement, Conservation de la Nature et Tourisme de la République Démocratique du Congo,
Monsieur le Représentant du Ministre de la Coopération Economique et du Développement de la République Fédérale d'Allemagne,
Monsieur le Représentant de la Commission Européenne,
Monsieur le Facilitateur du Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Représentants des organisations sous-régionales, internationales et des Bailleurs de Fonds,
Distingués Invités,
Mesdames, Messieurs,**

C'est un réel plaisir de se retrouver aujourd'hui dans cette salle de l'Hôtel Memling pour les travaux de l'atelier international sur la gouvernance forestière et les standards de durabilité dans le bassin de Congo.

Cet atelier va permettre aux différentes parties prenantes d'échanger leurs expériences et de dégager des leçons sur le processus de gouvernance forestière dans la sous-région.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Permettez-moi d'abord de saluer la présence parmi nous, de son Excellence José ENDUNDO, Ministre de l'Environnement, de la Conservation de la Nature et du Tourisme de la République Démocratique du Congo pour l'honneur qu'il a bien voulu nous faire en acceptant de présider personnellement la cérémonie d'ouverture de cet atelier.

Aussi, voudrais-je saluer le nouveau facilitateur du Partenariat pour les Forêts du Bassin du Congo, Monsieur Gaston GRENIER qui après sa prise de fonction avant-hier, a bien voulu se joindre à nous dans le cadre de cet atelier.

Enfin, je tiens à souhaiter la bienvenue à tous les partenaires au développement, aux délégués de l'espace COMIFAC et aux invités ici présents dans cette belle salle de réunion de l'Hôtel Memling.

La présence massive des participants à suffisance l'importance et l'intérêt que chacune vous ne cesse d'accorder à la noble cause que nous rassemble aujourd'hui.

Excellence, Monsieur le Ministre, Mesdames, Messieurs

Comme vous le savez, la conservation et la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers de la sous-région font partie des défis majeurs auxquels les Etats du Bassin du Congo et la communauté internationale se sont engagés à relever. La Déclaration de Yaoundé de mars 1999, la signature en février 2005 à Brazzaville du Traité instituant la COMIFAC et l'adaptation du plan de convergence illustrent parfaitement la détermination de nos Chefs d'Etat à œuvrer résolument pour la pérennité des forêts du Bassin du Congo.

Cet engagement des Chefs d'Etat a ainsi catalysé de nombreux processus sous régionaux de conservation et de gestion durable. C'est le cas du processus sur la gouvernance forestière mis en place pour faire face aux mauvaises pratiques de gestion des forêts, en l'occurrence l'exploitation et le commerce illégaux des ressources forestières.

En effet, l'exploitation illégale des ressources forestières, le braconnage des espèces fauniques et le commerce y associé, sont autant de fléaux que fragilisent les efforts des pays d'Afrique Centrale pour parvenir à une gestion durable de leurs écosystèmes forestiers.

C'est pour cette raison que les aspects de légalité et de certification constituent des thématiques importantes pour la sous-région, qui reste par ailleurs le grand fournisseur de bois tropicaux sur la

marché internationale. Le plan de convergence sous-régional en fait une priorité, notamment en ses axes stratégiques 1 et 5.

**Excellence, Monsieur le Ministre,
Mesdames et Messieurs**

Après une décennie de la mise en œuvre de la déclaration de Yaoundé, vous conviendrez avec moi que les pays de l'espace COMIFAC ont pu en dépit parfois des difficultés et contraintes internes, mené des réformes et actions nécessaires pour garantir la bonne gestion de leurs ressources forestières. Les résultats enregistrés aujourd'hui par la sous-région dans le domaine de la légalité et la certification forestière est assez édifiante. En effet, cinq pays (le Cameroun, le Congo, la République Centrafricaine, le Gabon et la République Démocratique du Congo) sont engagés dans les Accords de partenariat Volontaire (APV) avec l'Union Européenne et on estime par ailleurs à 4.5 millions, la superficie forestière certifiée en Afrique Centrale. En plus, la COMIFAC a mis en place une Task Force sous-régionale sur la gouvernance forestière chargée d'appuyer le Secrétariat Exécutive pour le suivi des initiatives relatives aux questions de gouvernance forestière.

Ces avancées que nous félicitons tous ne devraient pas pour autant occulter certains problèmes se résumant à la multiplicité des initiatives de gouvernance forestière développées par les partenaires et qui parfois ne développent pas entre elles des mécanismes de reconnaissances mutuelle. Ces initiatives comme nous le savons engendrent des coûts économiques souvent élevés tant au niveau des opérateurs de la filière bois qu'au niveau des Etats. C'est pour cela qu'il est important d'organiser régulièrement des concertations entre des différentes parties prenantes pour échanger sur les procédures et les spécificités de chaque système et envisager des synergies.

Je me réjouis particulièrement de la tenue du présent atelier qui permettra entre autres d'explorer des synergies entre les approches réglementaires et les standards volontaires de gestion durable des forêts d'une part et améliorer la compréhension des mesures réglementaires des pays importateurs de bois d'autre part.

Je voudrais pour terminer exprimer toute la gratitude et la reconnaissance de la COMIFAC à la Coopération Technique Allemande (GTZ) pour l'appui multiforme apporté à l'organisation réussie de cette rencontre.

Je souhaite pleins succès aux présentes assises.

Je vous remercie.

Opening Speech of Mr. Daniel Haas, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

His Excellency Minister José ENDUNDO BONONGE, Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism of the Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr Raymond Mbitikon, Executive Secretary of COMIFAC

Mr Gaston Grenier, new facilitator of the CBFP

Participants, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen

Appreciation on the decision of the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat to be the host for this international workshop on “Forest Governance and Sustainability Standards in the Congo Basin” which brings together a broad spectrum of stakeholders of the Congo Basin in order to foster understanding of recent trends in the international timber markets and about the possible impact of new regulations on countries importing or producing timber and timber products. We want to learn about **voluntary forest related standard systems** and to discuss and assess the **applicability of standards systems in the policies of COMIFAC and the implementation in its member states**. Our greatest intellectual challenge during the coming days might be to explore synergies between those regulatory changes on the one side, be it on the national level or in the global trade environment, and voluntary standards applied on the ground on the other.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me briefly explain why and in which context German Development Cooperation is supporting this workshop and why we believe that the content and title of this three day long undertaking is of importance to us. Actually, the great response to the invitation shows that this judgment seems widely shared in this group.

Congo Basin’s tropical forests comprise a tremendous richness for flora and fauna and provide a living source for millions of people – many of them being indigenous. The high economic importance is key to poverty reduction in the region. The fact that the Congo Basin forests are the planets’ second biggest green lung and thus are of crucial importance in the efforts to mitigate climate change is widely recognized today. The potential of these vast natural resources is huge, however problems to sustainably manage and protect these resources are manifold. **Global demand for forest products is increasing** and drivers of deforestation and degradation are also prevailing in the Congo Basin, even though we have to note that current deforestation rates are still relatively low compared to other tropical forest regions. At the same time, pressure on these unique ecosystems is increasing.

Sustainable forest management is one key instrument to preserve the Congo Basin’s forests. It is the German Government’s aim to foster sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin in order to preserve its biodiversity and to sustain and enhance its potential as an engine for poverty reduction. The creation of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) has been pivotal to the objective to support the sustainable use and management of forest resources in the Congo Basin. Germany has been supporting the creation and the development of COMIFAC’s capacity and the implementation of the regional convergence plan since many years. Parallel to its implementation on a regional level, the action needs to be carried to national levels as well. In the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon for example, the German development cooperation is implementing bilateral projects supporting the respective forestry ministries, always ensuring a linkage to the regional support of the COMIFAC. In addition to that, Germany is currently implementing activities aiming at the promotion of certification in the Congo Basin through KfW Development Bank.

For the last three years Germany in its role as the facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) tried to capitalize on the potential of this voluntary multi stakeholder network to foster cooperation and harmonization among the increasing number of partners jointly working with COMIFAC and its ten member countries for improved forest governance in the region. During the last two days CBFP conducted its Regional Consultative Committee here in Hotel Memling and on this occasion handed over the facilitation to Canada and I am glad that we have the new facilitator, Mr Gaston Grenier, here with us today.

Now I would like to come back to the topic of our workshop. We observe that the general demand for regulatory processes (land-use planning, legality assurance systems, public procurement policies) and for voluntary sustainability standards has increased significantly and their interrelations are expected to gain increasing importance. International and national regulatory systems offer a framework for making globalization more sustainable. They will provide incentives in striving towards green and sustainably managed economies. I wish to mention here that the concept of “green economy” features prominently in the Ministerial Declaration of the Pan-African Conference on Biodiversity, which was held recently in Libreville from 12.-17. September.

In the following I would like to touch upon some of these developments and trends mentioned above. The experience of recent years has shown that the development and implementation of sustainability standards (e.g. forest certification schemes) help to ensure that economic growth does not come at the expense of the protection of biodiversity and social justice. Forest certification schemes with their overarching goal of promoting sustainable forest management grow rapidly (by 15% per year). In the Congo Basin alone certification according to the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council grew remarkably to 5 million hectare in about 4 years. Forest certification schemes have transformed forest products markets and focus now even more on expanding certification in tropical forests.

Ladies and gentlemen, REDD-plus has introduced additional opportunities and challenges for increasing the economic value of tropical forests in the context of climate mitigation. Even though we presently do not know if and when the negotiations of a new international climate regime will result in a new REDD+ mechanism we can realistically expect that current trends to provide considerable finance for “REDD+ readiness” as well as pilot compensation schemes will continue. To improve transparency and coordination of substantial new funding for forest related programs on an international level, in May this year more than 50 heads of states and ministers launched in Oslo the Interim REDD+ Partnership. However, coordination on the national and regional level seems likewise to be of utmost relevance to align and harmonize REDD+ activities with other processes and understand the linkages and possible synergies. To give an example, carbon projects of any type (for the voluntary carbon markets or within a future climate/REDD+ regime) require robust monitoring, reporting and verification systems. Here standard systems could play a crucial role in linking up with future national land use planning processes and monitoring schemes for REDD+. Also through REDD+ it can be expected that certified sustainable forest management operations, as well as management of (national and transboundary) conservation areas will receive further attention as they are important instruments to achieve the overall objective to keep tropical forests standing.

The **EU FLEGT Action plan** rests upon the partners’ own commitment to introducing and implementing reforms to advance the legal framework, forest governance and control systems in the Congo Basin for trading timber products to European and domestic markets. Some Central African countries currently are “early movers” among timber exporting countries with Cameroon, Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic being among the first countries ever to sign a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU. We will discuss the potential synergies between national traceability systems in the FLEGT framework and private standard systems which both aim at proving that the timber comes indeed not from illegal logging operations.

Another external trend we have to take into account could be called “green procurement”. On top of private consumers changing demands also the private sector and public procurement policies in Europe increasingly request sustainable timber products proven by forest certification schemes. E.g. the German federal timber procurement directive requires for public buildings to use only timber products which are certified by FSC, PEFC or equivalent standards.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have to take note of several challenging trends providing the framework for sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin today and in the near future. I am looking forward to a vivid workshop which might help us to understand more about how this can be effectively streamlined to maximize the positive impacts all our activities intend to have on improved forest governance and sustainable development in the Congo Basin.

ANNEX V - BACKGROUND INFORMATION PAPER FOR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Background information on international workshop

“FOREST GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS”

I. Context

Promoting sustainable forest management is believed to be key to preserve tropical rainforests as biodiversity hotspots, living area for indigenous people, important resource for economic development and “green lung” to mitigate climate change.

The demand and expectations for standards and forest governance structures are high and interrelations between voluntary sustainability standards and regulatory processes are expected to gain on importance and to be an essential factor to keep tropical forests standing.

1. Voluntary standards

Forest standard systems with their overarching goal of promoting sustainable forest management grow rapidly. Market-driven voluntary forest-related sustainability standards are valorizing and verifying the multifunctional services forests provide. Sub-divided into product- (e.g. PEFC & FSC) and project-based (e.g. CCBA) schemes, they are also gaining importance as management tools for:

- sustainable forest management,
- monitoring,
- the protection of indigenous rights,
- safeguarding investments into forests
- increasing transparency, traceability and efficiency across the supply chain and
- improved market access and better trading conditions.

Hence, political decision makers are increasingly involved in discussions on standards systems as management tools for sustainable forest systems. However, it is important to highlight the challenges and constraints attached to the implementation of sustainability systems in the forest sector to increase positive impacts and minimize negative ones. Missing support service structures, limited access to information and confusion on different systems are issues to keep into consideration.

Responding to the current discussion it should be noted that standards are widely accepted if they apply a comprehensively beneficial approach aiming at balancing people’s needs, ecological aspects, sound social conditions across the supply chain and economic benefits for the production systems concerned. Sustainability standards systems are governed by a broad range of stakeholders whose decision making is dominated by a constructive dialogue process to ensure credibility and a broad acceptance in the public domain. This credibility with a balanced concept including consideration of all functions of forests, governance, verification process, measurable performance criteria and impacts of the standards systems determines the marketability of the products and is the most important element of each system. It will, therefore, be important to explore the credibility of standards systems, their market performance and its long-term impacts as the main parameters to assess the overall concept.

Besides their classical role of ensuring sustainable management, forest related sustainability standards become increasingly important with regard to the climate debate, e. g. by setting up schemes for the payment of environmental services (PES). Carbon credits from forest carbon projects are increasingly gaining importance on the voluntary carbon markets. They are therefore of growing interest for the private sector contributing to companies’ aim of becoming more sustainable and “carbon neutral”. PES criteria grids might be oriented at already existing sustainability standards.

2. Legality requirements & Public Procurement Policies

The new US (Lacey Act amendment) and EU regulation and policies (Illegal Timber Regulation and EU FLEGT Action Plan) aim to combat illegal logging and associated trade. Additionally, Public procurement policies are encouraged to align with timber legality requirements and influence tropical timber markets or standards development (e.g. proliferation of legal timber standards).

3. Intersectoral approach between agriculture and forestry for land-use planning

Increased demand for woody biomass (e.g. from the paper and energy industry), industrial timber and agro commodities is reflected in the need for land and the expansion of e.g. palm oil plantations and

forest plantations. Therefore, an integrated land-use planning system should balance agricultural uses with conservation/biodiversity protection and the maintenance of tropical forests to result in more sustainable agricultural expansion policies.

The general demand for regulatory processes as reflected in the three thematic blocks of the workshop (land-use planning, legality, and responsible sourcing/public procurement policies) and for sustainability standards has increased significantly and their interrelations are expected to gain more and more importance.

II. Objectives of the workshop

The goal of the workshop is to bring together the main stakeholders from the Congo Basin in terms of regulatory processes (government representatives of producer- (COMIFAC) and consumer- (EU) countries) and promoters and users of voluntary forest related standards (forest certification schemes, private sector, NGO) to discuss and assess the applicability of standards systems in the policies of COMIFAC and its national member states and possible ways ahead.

An update on the current situation of the initiatives and their respective procedures, requirements and implications will be followed by discussions on possible synergies between regulatory and voluntary approaches. The workshop should identify how the two strategies can complement each other's impacts in satisfying government-, private sector-, conservation- and consumers needs.

Furthermore, this central topic will be framed by discussions on how concepts like PES, REDD, and HCV are/can be applied in land-use-planning processes or linked to standards system application. It shall also be discussed what impacts standard initiatives can have on the sustainable development of the producer country and how to increase these beneficial impacts.

Day 1: Linkages between forest certification and Regional Land-use planning & transboundary forest conservation

Three concepts in the context of biodiversity/climate change (HCV, REDD+, PES) will be introduced and their role in certification schemes with respect to land-use planning will be discussed.

REDD-plus has introduced additional opportunities and challenges for increasing the economic value of tropical forests in the context of carbon stocks.

Certified sustainable forest management operations by the timber industry and smallholders, as well as the establishment and management of (transboundary) conservation areas are important instruments to achieve the overall objective to keep tropical forests standing. The High Conservation Value Concept (HCV) has been recognized as valuable instrument to assess management measures within certified areas.

Agroforestry systems (e.g cocoa), plantation forestry, as well as palm oil production, sugar cane and mining operations are increasingly important land uses in the interlinked forestry, mining and agriculture sectors. At the same time private sustainability standards for agro commodities, extractive resources, and forest products are being further developed.

The long term credibility of sustainability standard systems to ensure a sustainable production and traceability along the supply chain depends, besides balancing ecological, social and economic aspects, on the capability to integrate climate aspects. Additional carbon projects aiming at trading carbon credits on voluntary carbon markets and future REDD schemes require robust monitoring, reporting and verifiable systems. Therefore standard systems could play a crucial role in linking up with monitoring schemes for REDD which relates to intersectoral land use planning processes and safeguards for biodiversity and local rights.

Day 2: Linkages between forest certification and the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action plan and new legislation of the US and EU to reduce illegal logging and trade

Legal compliance is considered as a first basic requirement but it should strive for more comprehensive sustainable forest management practices in the tropics, encompassing further issues besides legality (biodiversity etc.).

The EU Illegal Timber Regulation which shall be adopted in October this year as well as the amendment of the US Lacey Act prohibits placing illegal timber on the market and enables prosecution and fining,

The EU FLEGT Action plan supports setting up partners' own commitment to introducing and implementing reforms to legal framework, forest governance and control systems in the Congo Basin for trading timber products in international and domestic markets through Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs). As the different member states of COMIFAC classify their forest cover in permanent and non permanent forests, of which the latter could be converted into other land uses under legal conditions, FLEGT licenses are a proof of legality according to governmental regulations.

In March 2010, GTZ initiated a dialogue between FSC and the European Commission to identify potential synergies to set up an efficient and credible FLEGT license scheme. At the last meeting in July 2010 between the Commission, FSC International, the EU FLEGT Facility, and GTZ, possible next steps were discussed. The main question was on how synergies could be created between the two approaches. Since the first VPAs were negotiated (Ghana, Cameroon, RoC), discussions are now starting on implementation procedures.

Identified possible synergies were:

- The private sector and FSC emphasize the importance of avoiding the double burden to comply with the FLEGT legality grid and traceability system as well as with FSC legality proof requirements.

Within the FLEGT process, the FLEGT license (which will be compulsory for all companies), established on the basis of compliance of all verifiers (rights allocation, environmental obligations, fiscal, labor and social obligations), could be awarded to a company that is FSC (or another private certification scheme) certified. This requires an evaluation of that system beforehand and concludes that all FLEGT legality matrix verifiers are analyzed. All Congo Basin countries have opted for a national traceability system including a national data base, which can have bridges with private standard systems (e.g. FSC). As the implementation of Legality Assurance systems agreed in the VPAs is beginning, it is the right time to advance on screening on how private auditing and tracking systems (e.g. FSC) could feed into national systems and can support a national traceability system to increase efficiency and transparency.

Over the last 5 years, there has been a lot of discussion related to 'stepwise', 'modular' or 'phased' approaches to forest certification. In 2006, FSC approved a Policy in Modular Approaches to Forest Certification. Rainforest Alliance already applies a Modular approach scheme as an effective link between verified legality compliance, controlled wood compliance and compliance with the full set of FSC criteria and indicators proving companies' sound and sustainable forest management.

Day 3: Standards as a promoter of sustainable development and trade

On day three, the focus lies on standards systems as promoter of sustainable development. Large companies use sustainability standards for their responsible sourcing programs while (public) procurement policies increasingly influence the global timber markets, driven by increased environmental awareness and a shift towards green economies.

The modular or stepwise approach of standard systems fostering the process towards sustainable management practices matches up well with the requirements built into sourcing programs or responsible purchasing policies (e.g. of the newly established Timber Retail Coalition (TRC)).

The private sector and public procurement policies in Europe increasingly request sustainably produced timber products proven by forest certification schemes. E.g. the

German federal timber procurement directive requires for public buildings to use only timber products which are certified by FSC, PEFC or equivalent standards.

Furthermore, sustainable forest management is one important criterion for the financial sector to assess the feasibility of a reliable investment in the forestry sector which is gaining increasing interest for long-term investments (e.g. pension funds, bonds etc.).

Workshop participants are encouraged to openly discuss these developments and design ways how standards systems can best support their measures to implement sustainable development policies.