

**CBFP Roadmap for the Promotion of the
Cooperation between Central Africa and China in the Frame of
COMIFAC'S CP Implementation
(as of May 25th, 2009)**

China's growing economic presence is also perceptible in the forest sector in Central Africa. There, an increasing number of operators representing Chinese interests have been observed, who are spread in several COMIFAC countries of which the effective policies and legislations generally aim at a sustainable and participative management of forest resources. For their part, Chinese partners have shown a clear willing to act in transparency and in compliance with both international agreements and national legislations. This was clearly reflected within, for instance:

- The EU/China dialogue on the "Forest Law Enforcement and Governance" (FLEG),
- The participation of Chinese officials and enterprises at various meetings regarding the dialogue on forest management organised by CBFP partners
- The publication by the Chinese Forest Administration (SFA¹) and the Ministry of Trade of the "Directives for a sustainable forestry addressed at Chinese enterprises operating outside China" (published in 2008²) and similar directives regarding the commercial use and management of natural forests which are being prepared.

The Chinese Forest Administration (SFA) has expressed the Chinese Government's firm intention of taking active interest in the Congo Basin Forests Partnership and of actively involving themselves in the partnership's activities. Given the visible interest of all actors (public, private, African, Chinese partners and CBFP), the CBFP facilitation has launched the process with the aim to boost dialogue on both forest management and good governance of Central Africa's forest resources.

Apart from the debriefing following the facilitation's trip to China (4/2009)³, the facilitation would like, through the present note, to inform partners about the various current initiatives, the actors involved as well as the suggested approaches as to promote a more structured cooperation between Chinese and Central African actors.

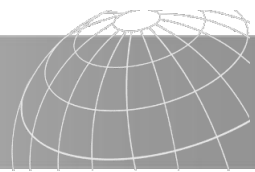
- **History** of the CBFP initiative for the China - Central Africa cooperation:
 - Participation of both the facilitation and some partners in the FLEG dialogue UE-China since 2007, which led to the "bilateral coordination mechanism on FLEG" in January 2009

¹ <http://www.sfmchina.cn/english/index.asp>

² <http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/rapportlibreville-iffia.html>

³ French and English versions:

http://www.cbfp.org/docs/news/mars_avril2009/Chine_rapportfinal_avril2009_schipullemakon.pdf



- SFA's participation (Forest Ministry in China) in the meetings organized within the frame of CBFP (Plenary 2007, private sector's workshop in May 2008⁴)
- Study missions of the official delegations to Central Africa, organized by the IUCN⁵ and the WWF in 2008
- Launch of studies on the potential of SFA-COMIFAC/CBFP's cooperation (China Wood International/CWI 2009) and on the impact of Chinese economic operations in Africa on forests (CIFOR 2009)
- CBFP facilitation's trip to China (April 2009)
- Some **other initiatives and actors** to consider:
 - China-Africa cooperation within the frame of FORCAC (African Union – forest sector to include)
 - EU – China “Bilateral coordination mechanism on FLEG”⁶
 - USA – China – Africa: Trilateral dialogue
 - NGO's programmes (i.a.) WWF : Global Shift Initiative; IUCN: Dialogue forum on legality in the sector of wood trade; Beijing Forestry Society/BFS: cooperation with African countries in capacity building)
 - GEF programme on sustainable management of the Congo Basin Forests (particularly the regional project on certification with UNEP)
 - Intensified commitment by Chinese companies to the Central Africa's forest sector
- A structured and sustainable cooperation between China and Central Africa, under SFA and COMIFAC's supervision and supported by CBFP (bilateral and multilateral Partners, EU, NGO, private sector, research centers etc)

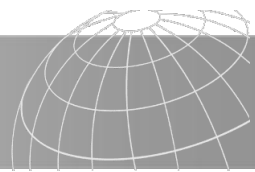
1. Main partners currently involved - Their motivations/interests

- **State Forest Administration/SFA:** International cooperation, technical support and capacity building (training), promotion of guidelines, to raise the profile abroad
- **European Union Commission:** Follow-up of the dialogue and the trilateral cooperation Europe - Africa - China; implementation of the bilateral mechanism of coordination EU-China
- **European Forest Institute/EFI:** Organisation of workshops and seminars on FLEG (UE Programme), capacity building, certification of legality

⁴ <http://www.cbfp.org/rapports/items/rapportlibreville-ifia.html>

⁵ http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/chinese_forest_delegation_study_tour_2008.pdf

⁶ http://www.cbfp.org/docs/news/mars_avril2009/FLEG_EU-China.pdf



- **Beijing Forest Society/BFS:** Multiplayer association, potential interface within approaches undertaken to establish direct links between the SFA and the COMIFA/CBFP; capacity building programmes in Africa
- **IUCN:** Promotion of legal and sustainable trade of wood in China, dialogue and communication between stakeholders
- **WWF:** Follow-up of the “China for a Global Shift” initiative with the aim to show the advantages of sustainable development in China and in all sectors of China's partner countries
- **China Wood International/CWI:** Analysis of wood's foreign markets, organisation of forums and trade fairs in order to promote China's private sector, editing and publishing of special magazines on the international wood industry
- **Tropical Forest Trust/TFT:** Checking of the public contract channel, traceability and trade of wood

2. Main sectors of activity

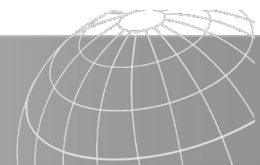
- Forest policies (e.g. legality and certification processes), technical and vocational sectors (e.g. forest management plan, forestry, commercial use of forest, wood, energy)
- Private sector's economic operations
- Implementation of SFA directives (forestry, forest management);
- Promotion of management and certification by third parties

3. Intermediate outcomes

- Visit of the COMIFAC's President and the Executive Secretary to China
- Signing of the Cooperation Agreement (MoU)
- SFA's adherence to CBFP

4. Instruments

- CBFP partners' programmes
- Information exchanges
- Capacity building (exchange of experts, seminars, workshops, study tours and conferences)
- Consultants, support of experts working in current projects, Private-Public Partnership



5. Deadlines (to complete)

Year	Semester	Results	measures	Partners	Inputs
2009	I	Increasing public awareness on China-COMIFAC partnership	Introduction of CBFP to players in China Participation in the UICN roundtable	WWF, UICN, EU, UK BMZ/GTZ;	CWI study (GTZ financing)
	I	Partners' agreement on suggested approaches	Information of CBFP members on the regional consultative committee (CCR) in Douala		SFA participation (GTZ)
	II	Organisation of workshops, seminars, exchange of experts	Planning of capacity building	EFI, WWF, IUCN, Task Force FLEGT-COMIFAC	EU, WWF, Global Shift (?) financing, others are to be looked for
	II		First meeting workshop with operators within the frame of CBFP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFA directives • Legislation of the COMIFAC member states • Compliance support 	CBFP partners, Chinese actors, UICN, CWI, WWF, BFS, IFIA, UFIGA	To be determined
2010	I		Planning of COMIFAC President's visit	ES/COMIFAC CBFP facilitation	
	I	Visit of COMIFAC President and Executive Secretary	UICN Roundtable Contacts with Chinese development stakeholders	PFBC IUCN, WWF sponsors	To be determined
	II		Training sessions within the frame of CBFP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traceability of wood • Certification • Legality 	TFT FSC and/or PEFC, EU	To be determined (EFI/UE, GEF/UNEP, KfW, AFD, BAD)
	II	Signing of MoU			
2011	I	SFA's adherence to CBFP			