

Berlin, 14 April 2020

To:
All Members of the CBFP;
All College Co-Leaders,
All Colleges

Subject: Call for ideas - Perspectives from the Congo Basin and our Partnership for upcoming key environmental conferences

Dear CBFP-Members,
Esteemed Partners,

It is a great pleasure for me, in my capacity as Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany to the CBFP for 2020 - 2021 and on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, **to contact you as CBFP members in order to ask you for support.** Keeping an eye on **upcoming key conferences** such as the CBD and UNFCCC COPs as well as the summits of the European Union with its African and Chinese partners, respectively, it is the stated goal of the German Facilitation to work towards a **shared position of the Congo Basin and all partners** engaged therein. We intend to collect your ideas and to feed them into international negotiations in a concise and targeted manner.

To this end, we aim to profit from the great technical expertise, the understanding of on-the-ground processes in the region and the broad knowledge you as members bring to our Partnership. Referring to the **attached German Facilitation Road Map** which is supported by COMIFAC President in Office Minister Jules Doret Ndongo, it is of great importance for me to proactively seek your advice as valued partners and CBFP members on the topics of “Biodiversity, wildlife and protected area management” (Road Map topic III), “Forests and climate” (Road Map topic IV) and “Sustainable land use (Road Map topic V).

We want to **collect ideas from you as CBFP members** in the upcoming weeks in a confidential and open-ended manner. After having compiled your input digitally, you will be invited to **discuss the suggestions during thematic workshops** on the sidelines of the next CBFP Council Meeting in order to enable exchange across different Colleges of our Partnership.

We are aware of and happy about the great variety of actors, the diverse opinions and the vast expertise gathered in the CBFP. Furthermore, we are convinced that the Partnership and the Congo Basin will benefit from an open, equal and stimulating discussion. Perspectives of the Congo Basin’s countries, partner states, local organizations and other stakeholders should be considered more appropriately in international negotiations.

We all want to **boost the Congo Basin's profile in multilateral environmental politics**. The Facilitation is convinced that this can be achieved most successfully through a **proactive Partnership of engaged and vocal members**.

I want to use my position as CBFP facilitator to emphasize the **critical moment the years 2020 - 2021** with their various international decisions and conferences represent for future environmental politics in the Congo Basin as well as globally. Thus, we urge you to use the Partnership as a channel for making the Congo Basin's voice heard in such crucial times.

Hence, **the Facilitation calls for ideas, suggestions and impulses from you** as the Partnership's members in reference to questions related to **biodiversity, wildlife and protected area management** regarding the CBD process. Furthermore, we welcome ideas and proposals from your side referring to the following questions within the broader subject of **forests and climate** concerning the UNFCCC process. Additionally, we invite you to share your expertise and ideas on the broader topic of **sustainable land use** as an overarching theme as well as concerning current global pertinence. Importantly, the German Facilitation also wants to **encourage College members to suggest further topics** and ideas which should be part of the CBFP's contribution to international negotiations. Please find a **list of technical questions attached**.

As Facilitator of the Partnership, I invite you to **contribute your ideas and knowledge** on the indicated subjects as well as on related matters to the Co-Leaders of your College and to the facilitation simultaneously.

Our facilitation team will stay in close contact with the **College Co-Leaders who are responsible** for collecting and compiling your contributions. The **further process** will be organized as follows:

- Please signal your **interest** and will to contribute to one of the topics until **28.04.2020**. We ask you to send your expression of interest to make a contribution **to the Co-Leaders of your college and to our facilitation team simultaneously** (dany.pokem@pfbc-cbfp.org).
- As next step, after having signaled your interest, kindly **prepare the contributions you want to make until 10.06.2020** and forward them to your college's Co-Leaders and my facilitation team (dany.pokem@pfbc-cbfp.org). The Co-Leaders with support of my facilitation team will then collect your contributions and compile them into a common statement from your College.
- We aim to organize **thematic workshops** on the sidelines of our next CBFP Council Meeting to discuss and streamline submissions. We initially planned to hold the CBFP Council Meeting in May in Kinshasa. Due to travel restrictions caused by the current Corona-crisis, the Council Meeting will be postponed but is to take place as soon as possible.
- We will keep you updated on additional meetings carrying these discussions forward. Our **goal is to be able to contribute the resulting common stance of the Congo Basin to international climate and biodiversity negotiations** over the year and in 2021.

In conclusion, I think it is vital to once again stress the importance of upcoming conferences until early 2021 for international environmental politics. Additionally, Germany's Presidency of the European Union in the second half of 2020 reinforces my sustained willingness and eagerness to work with you in this joint endeavor, which constitutes a major international collaborative effort for Central Africa. The upcoming weeks will be an opportunity for consideration and internal discussions as long as the deteriorating situation regarding the Corona Virus makes personal meetings and conferences impossible.

Finally, I want to **thankfully point out the College Co-Leaders** who will be jointly responsible for the further organization of this consultation process.

I thank you in advance for your support as well as your contributions and ideas.
Best wishes from Germany and stay healthy.

Cordially,



Dr. Christian Ruck

Facilitator of the Federal Republic of Germany and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership

Berlin, Germany

Attachments:

- (1) Technical questionnaire to CBFP members
- (2) Road Map for German Facilitation 2020-21
- (3) Introductory biographical synthesis of Facilitator Dr. Christian Ruck
- (4) Organizational chart of all CBFP Colleges and their Co-Leaders