

AGENDA: Ecosystems Services Stream June 18th, 2015

08:00 - 08:10 – Opening of the meeting / remarks

Introduction of the AC-CBFP - Kevin Njabo (UCLA) Facilitator for day

08:10 - 09:00 – Overview presentations – 12 minutes presentation / 3 minutes questions

- a. **“Congo Basin Forests Ecosystem Services Overview”** Roger Fotso (Wildlife Conservation Society Cameroon Country Director)
- b. **“Valuation of Ecosystem Services Overview”** Nancy Gelinias (Laval University)
- c. **“Mapping ES for Land Use Planning and Policy Overview”** Matt Hansen (U. Maryland)
- d. **“Forest Landscape Restoration in the Congo Basin: ROAM Approach”** Elie Hakizumwami (IUCN PACO)

09:07 - 09:20 – Coffee Break

09:20 - 10:50 – 12 minutes presentations / 3 minutes questions

Presenters will remain up front and participate in panel

- 1) **“Preserving Vertebrates for the Trees: Seed Dispersal as a Critical Ecosystem Service”** – T. Smith/T. Fuller (UCLA), Kimberly Holbrook (TNC/UCLA)
- 2) **“Determining links between food security and wildlife in the Congo Basin”** – John Fa (Manchester Metropolitan University/CIFOR)
- 3) **“Non Timber Forest Products”** – Dr. Chimere Diaw (Africa Model Forests Network)
- 4) **“Pathway to Prosperity: The use of agroforestry to improve people’s livelihoods and preserve environmental services in the Congo Basin”** – Dr. Zac Tchoundjeu (ICRAF)
- 5) **“Freshwater Ecosystem Services in Gabon: a modeling approach in support to Sustainable Development goals”** – Marie Clair Paiz (The Nature Conservancy)
- 6) **“Characterizing hydrological processes within the data-scarce environment of the Congo Basin”** – Yolande Munzimi (U. Maryland)

10:50 - 11:20 – Summary of Conclusions by Interactive Panel of Experts – Tom Smith (UCLA) moderator

11:30 – 12:45 CBFP Meeting Opening Ceremony

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch, Posters

Afternoon – The value of pristine ecosystems as natural laboratories, Science Informing Policy, local partnerships and the role of higher education

14:00 - 14:50 Higher education and research – link higher education and research to long term investments in capacity building – Kevin Njabo (UCLA) moderator

Moderator - opening 5-7 minutes

Panelists - 2-minute ‘elevator speech’ talks

Discussion - ~30 minutes questions from audience; discussion by panelists

Moderator - closing summary 3-4 minutes

- 1) Raymond Lumbuenamo (ERAIFT/University of Kinshasa)
- 2) Marie Louise Avana Tientcheu (Dschang University)
- 3) Dr. Patrick Mickala (USTM)
- 4) Eric Fokam (University of Buea)
- 5) Serge Kamgang (Ecole de Faune de Garoua)

14:50 - 15:40 CABAlliance Demonstrating the Value of Ecosystems to Society (15-minute talks) – Kevin Njabo moderator

“Valuing evolutionary services: Preserving adaptive variation under climate change” (Dr. Trevon Fuller – UCLA)

“Community engagement, education and outreach for conservation in the Ebo Forest: Cameroon’s newest national park” (Ekwoke Abwe – Drexel University)

“Science informing policy and setting the stage for responsible ecotourism in The Gran Caldera de Luba Scientific Reserve, Equatorial Guinea” (Dr. Katy Gonder, Drexel Univ.)

15:40 - 16:00 coffee break

16:00 - 16:50 Early Career AC-CBFP Panel – Building ecosystem services research and leadership networks – Stephane Ntie (USTM) moderator

Moderator - opening 5-7 minutes

Panelists - 2-minute ‘elevator speech’ talk

Discussion - ~30 minutes questions from audience; discussion by panelists

Moderator - closing summary 3-4 minutes

- 1) Michel Dongmo (U. Yaounde I / IITA)
- 2) Yolande Munzimi (U. Maryland/U. Kinshasa)
- 3) Suzanne Mogue (U. Dschang)
- 4) Drew Cronin (Drexel University)
- 5) Matthew Mitchell (Drexel University)
- 6) Tom Narins (UCLA/SUNY Albany)

16:50 - 17:30 – Closing Discussion - Kevin Njabo facilitator

Refine and finalize policy recommendations - include identification of knowledge gaps - people from sessions can advocate for recommendations in plenary

AC-CBFP (Ecosystem Services Stream) Policy Recommendations

1. Land use planning and enforceable land use zoning are critical to maintain ecosystem services.

Recommendation 1 – An inter-ministerial committee should be formed at the national level to support land use planning and enforceable land use zoning regulations for protection of ecosystem services.

2. Protected areas are vital for both ecosystem and human health, including food security. Protected areas management must balance environmental conservation with the needs of local communities.

Recommendation 2 – Update laws, revise schedule of fines, and prioritize training of officials to improve laws governing land use and protected area management; ensure that biological expertise is engaged to monitor changes in biodiversity and ecosystem services over time, and to implement adaptive management plans to manage uncertainties (e.g., development, climate change) over the long term.

3. Successful development is dependent on investment in higher education. Governments should require investment in higher education and research as part of conservation and development projects to ensure that students are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills that are needed for successful, sustainable programs and to enhance academic, training, and research opportunities in the region.

Recommendation 3 – Involve and support student researchers, trainees, and interns as much as possible in conservation and development projects as a means to create opportunities for professional collaboration and research to bolster the effectiveness of ministry projects.

Recommendation 3.1 – Support training for key forestry officials, wildlife officials, and land managers focusing on ecosystem services (including evolutionary services).

Recommendation 3.2 – Support development of a higher education network that links points of contact at Universities in all COMIFAC countries with Academic Consortium partners; identify points of contact at universities and national agencies and develop a central website that connects partners through social media.

4. Ecosystems services valuation is critical to economic growth, food security and sustaining forest biodiversity.

Recommendation 4 – COMIFAC States and partners should develop economic valuation tools for Ecosystem Services (metrics, monitoring and evaluation protocol) that incorporate biodiversity research and training in environmental sciences curricula to increase valuation capacity.

AC-CBFP Continuing Engagement

- 1) Continue to foster new research and professional collaborations with Universities, Governments, and NGOs across the Congo Basin through regional programs such as CBI, UMD/OSFAC, LAVAL/RIFFEAC, UW-Madison / Lwiro collaboration, and the Bioko Biodiversity Program.
- 2) Enhance and expand relationships with RIFFEAC and other institutions of higher education across the Congo Basin.
- 3) Continue to seek funding from sources that support building conservation and development capacity (including training) of current and future environmental leaders in the Congo Basin.
- 4) Build on current ACCBFP programs (multiple projects in 5 Congo Basin nations, including CABAlliance, LAVAL/RIFFEAC, UMD-OSFAC, and CBI) to promote further development of affiliate field research units across the Congo Basin.
- 5) Pledge support of unity to the new CBFP facilitation team to promote higher education and increase opportunities for building capacity across the Congo Basin.