

CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP – CBFP

The 16th Meeting of Parties Kigali, Rwanda, 21 – 26 November 2016

Information for media

CBFP

CBFP is a non-binding multi-stakeholder partnership enabling member organisations to cooperate on a voluntary basis. Currently, CBFP comprises more than eighty African and international partner countries and organisations from both the public and private sectors as well as from civil society and the academic and scientific community. It is the most comprehensive regional platform dealing with the challenges facing the Congo Basin forests.

With the signing of the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC) Treaty and the adoption of the sub-regional COMIFAC Convergence Plan in 2005 in Brazzaville, the Heads of State and Government of the Congo Basin countries confirmed their commitment to the principles of conservation of the biodiversity and the sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems, the fundamental rights of their populations to benefit from forest resources and the imperative to reconcile development needs with conservation within the framework of international cooperation.

Cooperation within CBFP aims to support this shared vision of the Central African Heads of State, notably by improving measures taken, including technical and financial support measures, to promote the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable management of forest ecosystems, to combat climate change and to alleviate poverty in Central African countries in line with the COMIFAC Convergence Plan.

The CBFP Meeting of Parties

The CBFP Meeting of Parties is the “General Assembly” of the Partnership. It is held once a year in a COMIFAC Member State, and all CBFP stakeholders are invited to register to attend.

The CBFP Meeting of Parties is a unique event in the region, bringing together a wide range of different stakeholders from local, national, regional and international levels to discuss and exchange on a variety of topics related to the protection and sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests.

The 2016-2017 EU Facilitation of CBFP

The 2016 Meeting of CBFP Parties will be the first such meeting held during the 2016-2017 period when the European Union is leading the Partnership by providing the so-called CBFP Facilitation.

For more information on the objectives and priorities of the EU Facilitation of CBFP please follow this link: http://pfbc-cbfp.org/facilitation_en.html.

The 2016 Meeting of Parties of CBFP - main meeting objectives

The 16th Meeting of Parties of CBFP will be held on 21-26 November 2016 at the Kigali Conference Centre in Kigali, Rwanda. It is expected to be a major event with around 500 participants.

The meeting in Kigali falls at a time when the Congo Basin forests are facing challenges of growing complexity and gravity. There is an urgent need in the region for a better articulation between sustainable forest management strategies and economic and development objectives, something which in turn requires improved possibilities for discussing issues, including those of a cross-sectoral nature, and following up on shared viewpoints.

CBFP can and should be able to play an important role here. However, in view of the severity and complexity of the challenges to the forests and the significant growth of the membership of CBFP, there is a need to strengthen the capacity of CBFP to fulfil this role. Making progress in this area is a key objective for the Kigali meeting. Key steps in this direction can be:

- identifying and high-lighting the added-value of the Partnership;
- explicitly attributing more credit and visibility to CBFP as an enabling structure, which allows more effective partner action;
- taking increased common responsibility for the functioning and development of CBFP, including consideration of how individual member organisations can contribute to cooperation inside the partnership structures;
- promoting a significantly strengthened participation of private sector entities in CBFP cooperation, in order to increase the capacity of the Partnership to address the current complex and cross-sectoral challenges facing the Congo Basin forests;
- using the potential of the reinforced cooperation structures – the CBFP colleges and Council – to strengthen the dialogue and exchanges within the Partnership to foster stronger convergence of collectively held view on key issues and improving the continuity and follow-up of CBFP discussions and actions.

Regarding work on key thematic issues, a key objective for the meeting is to produce concrete outputs of direct relevance and value to CBFP members and practitioners in the field as well as key recommendations addressed to policymakers on a limited and well-focused set of crucial issues.

Meeting programme

The official programme for the Meeting of Parties will begin with a technical segment, consisting of 5 thematic working sessions, known as “streams”, dealing with the following topics:

- Stream 1: Forest management policies and land use planning
- Stream 2: Conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources, including the fight against wildlife trafficking
- Stream 3: Climate change
- Stream 4: Sustainable economic development and private sector
- Stream 5: Knowledge-based decision-making

This will be followed by a political segment. First there will be time for the CBFP colleges to meet and then the inaugural session of the CBFP Council will be held.

In the evening of 24 November, there will be a formal opening ceremony for the political segment. The Meeting of Parties will culminate on Friday 25 November in a high-level Plenary session with participation at ministerial level, during which there will be separate thematic sessions covering each of the streams. The Plenary is also expected to adopt a final communiqué.

In parallel to this official programme, throughout the week there will be an Exhibition Space, where CBFP partners will exhibit and reach out with information on their objectives, priorities, programmes and activities. A number of related side-events will also be organised concurrently with the official programme.

On 26 November a set of optional site visits in Rwanda is being organised for meeting participants.

Further information

Further information about the programme of the 2016 Meeting of Parties of CBFP in Kigali, Rwanda, can be found here:

<http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/program-mop16.html>

For general information about CBFP or the 2016 Meeting of Parties of CBFP, please follow the links below:

CBFP:

www.pfbc-cbfp.org

The 2016 Meeting of Parties of CBFP in Kigali, Rwanda:

<http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org>