



Congo Basin Forest Partnership CBFP Facilitation of the Kingdom of Belgium (2018-2019)

**Follow-up Expert Meeting on the International conference on security, the
fight against poaching, monitoring transhumance and armed groups
circulating between the Sahel and Equatorial Africa**
(Follow-up to the N'Djamena conference)

Civil Society Day

Seventh CBFP Council Meeting

Douala, Cameroon, 16-19 July 2019

Chair: His Excellency Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, Minister of State of the Kingdom of Belgium and CBFP Facilitator.

Co-Chair: His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret Ndongo, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon, Acting President of COMIFAC

Briefing note

Dear Partner,

The Facilitation of the Kingdom of Belgium of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), is pleased to announce that the “Follow-up expert meeting on the International Conference on security, the fight against poaching, monitoring transhumance and armed groups circulating between the Sahel and Equatorial Africa”, the “CBFP Civil Society Day” and the “Seventh CBFP Council Meeting” will take place from **16 to 19 December 2019 in Douala, Cameroon.**

The meetings will be organized with the financial and technical support of the Consortium of the CBFP Facilitation of the Kingdom of the Belgium comprising the German Ministry of Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the European Union (DEVCO) and the Kingdom of Belgium. The seventh Council Meeting will close with the handover of the CBFP from the Kingdom of Belgium (outgoing) to the Federal Republic of Germany (incoming).

The meetings will be chaired by His Excellency Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, Minister of State of the Kingdom of Belgium and CBFP Facilitator and co-chaired by His Excellency Mr. Jules Doret Ndongo, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon, Acting President of COMIFAC.

Follow-up expert meeting on the N'Djamena conference - 16-17 December 2019

The Follow-up Expert Meeting on the International conference on security, the fight against poaching, monitoring transhumance and armed groups circulating between the Sahel and Equatorial Africa will hold from 16 to 17 December 2019. Experts taking part in the deliberations will be fanned out into the same thematic and geographic groups as those of the N'Djamena Conference held in January:

- Group 1: **West Bloc** centered around Lake Chad and comprising Cameroon, Nigeria, CAR and Chad.
- Group 2: **Center Bloc** comprising Chad, CAR, the DRC, Sudan and South Sudan.
- Group 3: **East Bloc** comprising the CAR, the DRC, Sudan and South Sudan.

The expert meeting is expected to develop a custom logical framework for each of the 3 intervention blocs. These logical frameworks will form the basis for developing a comprehensive action document (technical and financial) following the expert meeting. Each of the 3 logical frameworks (one for each bloc) will be tailored to the 8 intervention areas identified at the January 2019 N'Djamena Conference (see attached Terms of Reference).

Depending on the prevailing situation in the bloc concerned, the experts will also decide whether or not to conduct specific activities relating to the following issues:

- Revamping implementation of existing bilateral agreements;
- Whether or not to negotiate and sign new bilateral agreements;
- Whether or not to implement new approaches to management and sustainable financing of protected areas (for instance by delegating protected area management through public private partnerships (PPP)).

The experts will also propose a strategy for establishing a regional mechanism to monitor and guide policy on the interactions between security/protected areas/pastoralism. They will propose an action plan for organizing at least three meetings from 2020 to 2021 between actors (local, national and international) in the security, pastoralist and protected area sectors.

Close to a hundred participants are expected to attend, including experts appointed by each of the seven countries concerned (Chad, Cameroon, CAR, Sudan, South-Sudan, RDC, Niger), resource persons for each of the 3 blocs identified and regional organizations. Representatives of the CBFP Donors' College will be invited to attend in observer capacity.

CBFP Civil Society Day- 18 December 2019

The CBFP Civil Society Day is scheduled for 18 December 2019. It will be organized by the Leaders of the CBFP Civil Society College namely the CEFDHAC Regional Steering Committee (Conference on Dense and Moist Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa) and the ACRN Focal Point (African Community Rights Network). The Terms of Reference of the Civil Society Day are hereby attached. It will be entitled "Congo Basin forests at the crossroads between Conservation- Sustainable Management and Development- Climate Change and Investments in the forestry sector: Civil society's role and local communities' expectations"

The overall aim of the day is to help anchor emerging themes relating to conservation, sustainable forest management and improving the livelihoods of people living in and around forests. An entire day of the Civil Society College event will be devoted to presenting the results of upstream discussions on emerging themes relating to conservation, the GDF and improving the livelihoods of people living in and around forests. Specific aims will be to:

- Take ownership of the roadmap of participatory forestry and the development of its toolbox, as well as relevant initiatives that are ongoing or likely to be developed under emerging themes, in order to strengthen the capacities of civil society and local communities to work towards biodiversity conservation while improving the socio-economic status of IPLCs;
- Identify actions needed to implement one of the recommendations of the 18th MoP held in Brussels which recalls “the crucial need to effectively enforce national legal and regulatory frameworks designed to be the main pillar of good governance to nurture the economic, biological and cultural value of the renewable natural resources of the Congo Basin forests”;
- Take ownership of the N’Djamena anti-poaching roadmap including the challenge of managing protected areas, buffer zones and cross-border landscapes in order to increase civil society’s contribution to its implementation;
- Review challenges related to transhumance, strengthening the resilience of our communities to the adverse effects of climate change and all other relevant initiatives aimed at fighting climate change in order to increase carbon sequestration and thus step up the contribution of the Congo Basin forests to the fight against global warming with emphasis on REDD+ and other climate-related initiatives in such a way as to benefit IPLCs.;
- Map out fundraising opportunities available to civil society organizations to monitor and evaluate economic and social development projects implemented for the benefit of IPLCs, for submission during a dialogue to be held with the Donors’ College;
- Take ownership of the development of the New Deal Humanity and Nature and define the conditions for the Civil Society College’s contribution with a view to articulating the positions of the College’s members, including the positions of IPLCs.
- Lay the groundwork for developing standards and indicators to enable each country and the sub-region to assess the impact of projects and investments implemented to foster conservation efforts, and for the benefit of the GDF and IPLCs.

Close to a hundred participants are expected to attend representing the members of the CBFP Civil Society College, namely: African Community Rights Network - CEFDHAC regional steering committee - FLAG - PR2CAC -REJEFAC - REFADD - RECEIAC - ROSCEVAC - SEEAC - REPAR - REFACOF - ReRaC - REPALEAC.

Seventh meeting of the CBFP Council - 19 December 2019

The seventh CBFP Council meeting will take place on 19 December 2019. It will be chaired by the Minister of State Mr. François-Xavier de Donnea, CBFP Facilitator of the Kingdom of Belgium. It will be graced by the presence of politicians, senior representatives of ECCAS and COMIFAC, diplomatic representatives and senior representatives of technical and financial partners.

Representatives of the following seven CBFP colleges will also attend:

- The CBFP regional college: ECCAS, COMIFAC and Congo
- The CBFP Civil Society College: CEFDHAC and the Community Rights Network (CRN)
- The CBFP International NGOs College: AWF and WWF
- The CBFP Private Sector College: ITTTA, TFT
- The CBFP Donors’ College: The EU and the US
- The CBFP Scientific and Academic College: CIFOR and IRET
- The CBFP Multilateral College: FAO, GVTC, UNESCO

The college representatives will come with advisers and/or other members of the CBFP colleges as Observers. The meeting is expected to attract about 100 participants.

As announced in its roadmap, the Belgian CBFP Facilitation is fully invested in preserving the gains from CBFP governance reform and will therefore rely on the smooth functioning of the CBFP Council and Partners’ colleges.

As a matter of fact, the CBFP cooperation framework provides that the “CBFP Council shall meet twice a year”. Hence the seventh Council meeting will on the one hand enhance the strengthening of CBFP governance and provide a conducive framework for promoting broad dialogue and effective cooperation between all stakeholders within a partnership whose membership has grown significantly since its inception. On the other hand, the members of the CBFP Council will also review what is being done to coordinate and harmonize efforts to preserve the Congo Basin forests and will seek to forge better linkages between strategies for sustainable management of large forest areas and the region’s economic development objectives. Throughout the meeting, the members of the CBFP Council will have opportunities to dialogue.

The detailed agenda of the seventh CBFP Council Meeting as well as practical and logistical information will be available on the CBFP website (<http://pfbccbfp.org/accueil.html>) once they are finalized.

Note to the editors:

CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) was launched by former US Secretary of State Colin Powell at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in response to Resolution 54/214 of the United Nations General Assembly which called on the international community to support efforts to preserve and sustainably manage the Congo Basin forests, embodied in the 1999 Yaoundé Declaration of Heads of State.

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership is a member of the partnerships of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. As a "Type II" partnership, it is a multi-stakeholder partnership that allows member organizations to cooperate on a voluntary basis. The CBFP currently comprises 115 countries including 10 **Central African countries** and close to a hundred partners concerned with the Congo Basin forest ecosystems: **ECCAS, COMIFAC**, financial partners, civil society of the Congo Basin, international NGOs, multilateral organizations, research and training institutions, private sector operators.

Cooperation within the 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 conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of forest ecosystems, combat climate change and alleviate poverty in Central African countries in line with the COMIFAC Convergence Plan.

Cooperation and governance structure of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership

Consistent with its non-binding and voluntary character, the CBFP does not have a formalized institutional structure. Instead, it has a set of informal structures:

- **The CBFP Meeting of Parties:** The CBFP Meeting of Parties is the “General Assembly” of the Partnership. The meeting is held in one of the COMIFAC member States and brings together all CBFP stakeholders.
- **The CBFP Colleges:** The CBFP members are grouped within seven colleges by type and role of actor: The Regional CBFP-ECCAS-COMIFAC College: The CBFP Civil Society College: Leaders: CEFDHAC and the Community Rights Network (CRN) ; CBFP International NGO College: Leaders: AWF and WWF: The CBFP Private Sector College: Leaders: ITTTA, TFT: The CBFP Donors’ College: Leaders: EU and US: The CBFP Scientific and Academic College:

Leaders: CIFOR and IRET: The CBFP Multilateral College: Leaders: FAO, GVTC, (alternate-UNESCO)

- **The CBFP Council:** The CBFP Council comprises two representatives of each CBFP College and is chaired by the CBFP Facilitator.
- **The CBFP Facilitation:** The CBFP is headed on a voluntary basis by one of its members who serves as Facilitator, promoting effective dialogue and cooperation within the Partnership. The CBFP was initially facilitated by the United States from January 2003- December 2004, France from January 2005- October 2007, Germany October 2007- September 2010 and Canada from September 2010 to December 2012. The United States took over the Facilitation again from May 2013 to December 2015 and the European Union from January 2017 to December 2018. The CBFP Facilitation is currently run by the Kingdom of Belgium for the period running from 2018-2019.

What is the CBFP Council's role?

The CBFP Council is a forum for fostering effective consultation among the partners. By bringing together the college representatives (i.e. Two representatives for each of the seven colleges), the Council helps to ensure that the viewpoints of various types of partners within the CBFP are better heard and taken into consideration. It aims to help express converging viewpoints on key issues relating to the protection and sustainable management of forests, notably major issues, priorities and efforts to promote concerted action. It also promotes closer follow-up of key issues discussed by all the partners.

The Council meets twice a year. It supports the Facilitation in preparing and following up on CBFP Meetings of Parties.

The Council operates in a transparent manner and all CBFP partners are informed of the outcomes of all its meetings.

What are the roles and responsibilities of partners chosen by their peers to represent their college for a definite period of time within the CBFP Council?

CBFP members who are chosen by fellow members to represent their college must ensure that information sharing exists and functions efficiently between the members of their college.

These representatives are the “voice and ears” of their colleagues within the CBFP Council. When participating in debates within the Council, the representatives must follow the guidelines agreed upon beforehand by their respective college. They must also faithfully report to their college on all Council meetings.

Given the key responsibilities of college representatives, their selection by the college must take into account the significant amount of time and resources that will be needed for them to adequately fulfill their role. Their responsibilities will entail attending two CBFP Council meetings per year which may be held in Central Africa or Europe, as well as facilitating dialogue within their college all year round. It is therefore important to ensure that the chosen representatives are capable of fully fulfilling this role.

How often do the Council and the colleges meet?

The Council meets twice a year. The colleges meet in person at least once a year, during the annual Meeting of Parties. However, other meetings can be contemplated on the sidelines of other events that several members of a college are likely to attend, such as conferences of parties of relevant initiatives of the United Nations system, some regional meetings, etc. The frequency of meetings will vary depending on the respective colleges. Colleges do not necessarily meet before every CBFP Council meeting. The key thing is that they should discuss their views on items on the Council's agenda, without necessarily meeting in person. It is provided that the agenda of CBFP Meetings of Parties should include CBFP college meetings in addition to the Council meeting.

The CBFP Facilitation of the Kingdom of Belgium during the period from 2018 to 2019

The seventh CBFP Council meeting will be the fourth and last formal CBFP meeting to hold during the period running from 2018 to 2019, during which the Kingdom of Belgium has led the Partnership by running its Facilitation.

Please see below the three achievements of the CBFP Facilitation of the Kingdom of Belgium to date:

Sixth CBFP Council meeting and High-Level Policy Dialogue between the regional college (COMIFAC/ECCAS countries) and the CBFP donors' college - Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 10-14 June 2019

- [The CBFP in the heartland of Malabo: Sixth CBFP Council sees huge turnout](#)
- [High-Level policy dialogue between members of the Regional College and CBFP donors a resounding success](#)

China -Africa Dialogue: CBFP Facilitator in talks with Chinese businesses and ministry on GGSC (Global Green Supply Chain)

- [Histoires à succès du premier Atelier international Afrique-Chine : Vers un dialogue permanent et structuré Chine-Afrique centrale sur la Gouvernance des terres forestières, investissements et durabilité](#)

The successful organizing and holding of the international conference of Ministers of Defense, security and protected areas on the fight against poaching and other cross-border criminal activities.

FR :

[Déclaration de Ndjamen Final.pdf](http://pfbcbfp.org/docs/Conference%20N'Djamena%202019/Allocution%20et%20declaration/D%C3%A9claration%20de%20N'djamena_Final.pdf) : http://pfbcbfp.org/docs/Conference%20N'Djamena%202019/Allocution%20et%20declaration/D%C3%A9claration%20de%20N'djamena_Final.pdf

EN : [Déclaration de Ndjamen Final EN.pdf](http://pfbcbfp.org/docs/Conference%20N'Djamena%202019/Allocution%20et%20declaration/D%C3%A9claration%20de%20N'djamena_Final.pdf) : http://pfbcbfp.org/docs/Conference%20N'Djamena%202019/Allocution%20et%20declaration/D%C3%A9claration%20de%20N'djamena_Final.pdf

Eighteenth CBFP Meeting of Parties - 27 and 28 November 2018

FR CBFP - Déclaration de Bruxelles (FR final).pdf (261.0 Ko) : <http://pfbc-cbfp.org/rapports/items/Plénière-RDP18.html?file=docs/18e-RDP-2018/CBFP%20-%20Déclaration%20de%20Bruxelles%20%28FR%20final%29.pdf>

EN : CBFP - Brussels Declaration (EN final).pdf (190.0 KiB) : <http://pfbc-cbfp.org/proceedings/items/Plenary-2018.html?file=docs/18e-RDP-2018/CBFP%20-%20Brussels%20Declaration%20%28EN%20final%29.pdf>

For more information on the CBFP Facilitation roadmap, please click on the link below:

 [Facilitation belge du PFBC - Feuille de route-FR.pdf \(58.0 Ko\)](#)

Please download the press release below:  Communiqué de presse - 1er mars 2018 - La Belgique reprend la facilitation du PFBC.pdf (86.8 Ko)

For more information on the CBFP governance structures please visit the link below:  [Questions-Reponses-College-conseil-PFBC-FR.pdf \(75.1 Ko\)](#)