

Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)
Transition period

«Efficient coordination, mobilization, consultation and communication»

**12th meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership
Regional Advisory Committee**

March 18 to 20, 2013, Sawa Hotel, Douala, Cameroon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

CONTENTS

1. Background	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.
1.1- The Yaoundé Statement (1999) - Birth of CBFP - COMIFAC on the leading "seat".....	3
1.2 - From Regional Advisory Committee to CBFP Meeting of Partners.....	3
1.3 - Transitional phase - CBFP mobilization and strengthening.....	4
1.4 - CBFP former facilitations consortium at work for a memorable meeting.....	4
1.5 Equality between Man and Woman at the rendez-vous of the 12 th MP.....	5
2. Global objective and expected results of the CBFP Meeting of Partners	5
2.1 - CBFP Meeting of Partners specific objectives.....	5
3. Organisation and content of the meeting	6
3.1 - Organization of the meeting.....	6
3.2 - Indicative program.....	7
4. Venue and duration.....	9

1.1 The Yaoundé Statement (1999) - Creation of CBFP - COMIFAC on the leading "seat"

From the **Statement of Yaoundé (1999)** formulated by head of states present at the first summit of Central Africa Heads of State on forests, countries that signed the Declaration engaged, with the support of development partners gathered within the **Congo Basin forest Partnership (CBFP)**, in the process of conservation, sustainable management of forest ecosystems and community development, adopting and implementing forest policies and legislations in terms of operations in the Commission for Central Africa Forests (COMIFAC) convergence plan.

Created in September 2002 on the initiative of the United States and South Africa at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), CBFP is composed of more than 69 country members: (ten of them are of the COMIFAC area), about ten technical and financial bilateral partners, international and nongovernmental organizations, private sector and research organization representatives. It is therefore composed of state, inter-state and non-governmental, associations or private partners, which constitutes a remarkable example of informal cooperation around the issue of forest conservation and sustainable management in Central Africa based on discussion and information exchanges. CBFP partners agreed that they shall harmonize the support for an efficient implementation of COMIFAC convergence plan. It is a framework of consultation, solidarity and discussion. It is a “type II” partnership in opposition to “type I” inter government partnerships like COMIFAC.

CBFP is often described as a platform, a network, a non-binding discussion forum, agreed between governments, private sector, civil society organizations and development partners. CBFP aims to support the implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration (1999) and the COMIFAC convergence plan. The cooperation framework for CBFP partner members drafted during the first CBFP coordination meeting held on January 2003 in Paris and adopted by CBFP members in 2005 in Brazzaville, states that partners’ objective in the CBFP initiative is as follows: **“Efficient improvement of technical and financial contributions for forest ecosystems conservation, sustainable management, and the reduction of poverty in countries of Central Africa”**. This objective is in conformity and coherent with the provisions of the Treaty of 2005 instituting COMIFAC. This cooperation framework confirms the willingness to seek transparency and good coordination between members of the CBFP and technical and financial partners, in particular to enable the development of synergies between current and future projects and programs. The convergence plan is CBFP’s reference tool for channeling investments and interventions, in accordance with the Paris and Busan Declarations. COMIFAC and its partner institutions are the main benefactors of CBFP actions which, within the framework of the convergence plan implementation, seek for ways and means to bring in more coherence and fluidity in the development of the plan’s activities.

1.2 - From Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) to CBFP Meeting of Partners

With the evolution of CBFP Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) to include all partners in recent years, since the RAC of Bujumbura in May 2011, these meetings have been renamed as the Meeting of Partners (MP). The Meeting of Partners is held twice a year in order to facilitate the coordination, mobilization and harmonization of CBFP members’ support, CBFP good governance and mobilization of decision makers from CBFP member institutions. Emphasis is on open dialogue, promotion of collaboration between the various partners and the establishment of a work schedule that will help to tackle issues that can facilitate a harmonious implementation of the COMIFAC convergence plan and major international conventions on forests and

environment. Conclusions drawn at the end of discussions, exchanges and presentations are essential references for CBFP facilitator members in charge of managing and animating partnership activities. They have the following objectives: i) to establish good communication between CBFP members, ii) to conduct a regular follow-up – evaluation of activities achieved within CBFP and iii) to play the regular role of adviser to CBFP facilitator members. During CBFP Meetings of Partners, exchanges of information will essentially be on projects, programs and policies of conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems with the essential goal of improving the Congo Basin population's living conditions.

As concerns RAC, since the Meeting of Partners of Douala in February 2012, it has become the framework for former facilitators to lead CBFP's destiny together. This RAC new name shall constitute a discussion point during this 12th Meeting of Partners.

1.3- Transitional phase – mobilization and strengthening of CBFP

The management mode chosen by CBFP is facilitation by a member. It is simple method of defining dialogue and consultation, conducted by one of the members on a voluntary basis for a limited duration. The facilitation mission is characterized by three elements: 1) consultations animation (internal communication, mobilization of partners around common strategies, information and data sharing), 2) CBFP promotion (external communication, mobilization of new members, search for new funding and 3) facilitation of activity coordination (beginning by their follow-up). With the end of CBFP facilitation supported by Canada (October 2010 – December 2012), following that of the United States of America (January 2003 – December 2004), France (January 2005 – October 2007) and Germany (October 2007 – September 2010), **CBFP facilitation has since January 2013 entered a transitional phase, managed by the consortium of former-facilitations.**

Concerning its roadmap, CBFP facilitation supported by Canada has already organized since September 2012, **4 Meetings of Partners with 3 respectively** in Kinshasa (September 2010), Bujumbura (May 2011) and Douala (February 2012). The meeting of Douala established the RAC in its initial form with a meeting of the former-facilitations and some partners gathered within COMIFAC. **The fourth meeting, which stands as the 4th CBFP plenary meeting was recently organized in N'Djamena, Chad, from September 19 to 22, 2012.**

All the **major conclusions and recommendations** of those meetings are available on the CBFP website: www.pfbc-pfbc.org or on the CBFP Meeting of Partners website: <http://ccr-rac.pfbc.org/acceuil.html>

1.4 - CBFP former facilitations consortium at work for a memorable meeting

Following one of the 4th CBFP plenary recommendations, CBFP former facilitations are organizing during the CBFP transitional phase, the **12th CBFP Meeting of Partners**. It follows the 11th Meeting which stands as the 4th CBFP plenary (N'Djamena September 2012), the 10th (Douala, 29th February to 2nd March 2012), 9th (May 2011 at Bujumbura, Burundi). The 8th RAC with the handing over from Germany to Canada (Kinshasa, September 2010), the 7th Meeting standing as the 3rd CBFP plenary which was held in Yaoundé, 11 and 12 November 2009; the 6th (Douala - Cameroon, May 2009); the 5th (Brazzaville, Congo, October 2008) and the 4th at Bangui, Central Africa Republic (March 2008); the 3rd RAC held in Paris on October 2007, the 2nd Meeting of Partners which stands as the 2nd plenary was held in Paris on June 2006; the 1st RAC was held in Brazzaville (February 2005).

The 12th CBFP Meeting of Partners is organized in collaboration with **COMIFAC Board and executive secretariat and the Cameroon ministry of forests and fauna**. It shall be held at the **Douala Sawa Hotel, Cameroon, from March 18 to 20, 2013**. The meeting is special because it shall not only be organized during the transitional phase, but also be 10 years after the launching of CBFP, some months after the **Doha (Qatar) and Hyderabad (India) conferences** and after the handing over of the COMIFAC Board to Chad.

1.5 Woman-Man equality on the agenda of the 12th Meeting of Partners

On the sidelines of the 12th Meeting of partners, the **CBFP thematic Day on gender equality or WME (Woman-Man Equality)** shall take place as usual. This is a recommendation of the Bangui RAC under the facilitation of Germany. In fact, gender equality is one of the most relevant emerging and transversal themes as far as the fight against poverty, sustainable economic growth and Human rights are concerned. Concerning Woman-Man Equality, many conventions were ratified; Treaties and platforms were signed at the international and regional levels by most COMIFAC member states. It unfortunately clearly appears that there has been insufficient consideration of these commitments at the level of policies, strategies as well as national legislation. According to observers, this situation seems to be linked to an under-estimation of the commitments that were taken on the one hand, and an insufficient mastery of the stakes related thereto, on the other hand. That is the reason why it is useful for CBFP to continue to sensitize its members on the stakes of the integration of gender in programs, projects and policies.

The CBFP thematic day is organized by the **office of CEFDHAC sub Regional Steering Committee, REFADD Regional coordination, COMIFAC ad hoc committee on Gender**, and a **team of technical experts** invited by Canada. An explanatory note and the thematic workshop detailed program shall be made available to participants later on.

This explanatory note gives details of practical modalities of the 12th Meeting of Partners.

2 - Global objective and expected results of the CBFP Meeting of Partners

To facilitate the continuity of actions carried out by CBFP during the transitional phase for sustainable management of forest ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity for the well-being of the Congo Basin populations.

2.1 – Specific goals of the CBFP Meeting of Partners

- To contribute to a better understanding of the 2007, 2010 and 2012 CBFP evaluation results and its facilitation, and share a preliminary roadmap of the CBFP transitional phase (state of implementation of recommendations, projects realized, and future perspectives);
- To contribute to the mobilization and sensitization of CBFP partners on CBFP priority actions, facilitation priorities, and those of COMIFAC according to opportunities and constraints, within the context of transition;

- To improve upon consultation, harmonization of intervention through multi-actors partnership at regional and international levels;
- To contribute to capacity-building for poverty reduction and a good management of the Congo Basin forest ecosystems;
- To agree on facilitation leading modes reformulated according to the responsibilities shared between various donors on a voluntary basis.

2.2 – Expected results

The following results are expected at the end of the meeting:

- CBFP partners appropriate the COMIFAC council of ministers results, the scope of CBD-COP 11 (Hyderabad, India) and UNFCCC-COP 18 (Doha, Qatar) decisions for COMIFAC countries;
- The report of activities carried out by CBFP facilitations from 2002 to 2012 are shared and an update is given on the state of implementation of recommendations formulated by various evaluations during the period;
- Elements of the 2013 – 2014 CBFP facilitation roadmap integrating partner’s contributions are proposed;
- The priorities of CBFP actions, its facilitations and those of COMIFAC are identified according to opportunities and constraints;
- Harmonization of partners technical and financial contributions in the implementation of the COMIFAC convergence plan is promoted;
- The facilitation steering mechanism by a consortium of donors is explicated and adopted;
- An agreement is reached to update the “CBFP cooperation framework” and a CBFP admission regulation.

3. Organization and Content of the Meeting

3.1 organization of the Meeting of Partners

Dr Hans SCHIPULLE, a former CBFP facilitator and Head of the German delegation, shall preside over the 12th CBFP Meeting of Partners. The Meeting is organized with the technical support of GIZ, a COMIFAC support office, and with the financial support of the Canada government. Session presenters and facilitators shall make sure that they highlight the following transversal themes: (a) Equality between Man and woman for a sustainable development in the Congo Basin, (b) a bigger involvement of the civil society for resources management and, (c) human resources development (training – research) for a good management of forest ecosystems. These transversal themes are part of the 2010 – 2012 roadmap that former facilitations proposed to follow till the next roadmap which shall be proposed by the USA.

The 12th shall include an **opening ceremony** in the presence of the COMIFAC current chairperson, Cameroon minister of forests and fauna and ambassadors of CBFP former facilitations. The meeting shall be structured around **five thematic sessions** on CBFP and COMIFAC.

A 12th CBFP Meeting of Partners innovation is the organization of **Side-events** – “partnership exhibition” on March 19, 2012 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. For a duration of 3 hours, four side-events are already registered and shall function in parallel: for more detail please check the provisional program

During the **CBFP Meeting of Partners closing ceremony**, the Meeting of Partners major conclusions, recommendations and perspectives which are the results of a two days work shall be presented. The floor shall be given to the USA ambassador to confirm the facilitation steering mechanism for the next period.

3.2 Indicative program

The provisional program of the meeting shall be as follow:

- **Session 1:** Emerging issues in the Congo Basin – restitution and exchanges of information. This session is divided into two sub session:
 - ✓ **Session 1.1** will have two presentations and a series of announcements: (1) Strategy on forest carbon in the FCPF, UNREDD and FIP framework: lessons learned, opportunities and constraints – a synoptic view. (2) Ecosystem services and natural capital accounting – Its utilities for the Congo Basin countries (with the intervention of participants that are particularly involved in the domain).
 - ✓ **Session 1.2** will have three presentations and a series of announcements: (1) presentation of major conclusions of the thematic day on gender equality – WME (Woman-Man Equality), exchanges on the need to build up technical and financial capacities; (2) innovative results – EFBC 40 – Jean Noël Marien, CIRAD; (3) state of advancement of the three major activities of the RAPAC phase; (4) improvement of the well-being of population – Local Development fund (LDF) for the funding of micro projects development: effective start and access modalities.
 - ✓ **Session 1.3** announcements/ exchanges of information WCS/ UNESCO (CAWHFI) – FAO/ COMIFAC/ FFBC (MRV) – PEFC (certification) – RIFFEAC (training) – Afrique Environnement Plus, UICN-CARPE – others...
- **Session 2:** Opening ceremony
- **Session 3 Dynamism of COMIFAC and its partners** will have three presentations: (1) Major results of the COMIFAC council of ministers at N’Djamena – implementation (2) Head of states summit and commemoration of the Yaoundé Declaration (3) Durability of CEFDHAC –CPR CFDHAC
- **Session 4: CBFP review after 10 years of existence – a new momentum in the improvement of technical and financial contributions efficiency for the implementation of the convergence plan.**
 - ✓ Presentation of conclusions on the study of CBFP review after 10 years of existence and its facilitations – a new momentum in the improvement of technical and financial contributions efficiency for conservation, sustainable management of forest ecosystems, and poverty reduction in countries of Central Africa where CBFP impact should be felt after 10 years – strengthening of CBFP governance and gains:
 - Review the impact of the partnership since 2003 – what would have been lost without CBFP? What is the gain with CBFP?
 - CBFP raison d’être in 2013 and areas where joint efforts should be made for harmonization of policies and approaches;

- Summary of the main experiences and analyses accumulated from 4 facilitations, lessons learned from the review of past facilitations. A summary containing all the formulated recommendations in the previous evaluations and examine those applied, those that were not, and determine if some are still valid and should be implemented. Summary of recommendations provided to partners for discussion;
- Expectations of partners concerning CBFP, the reason why each is a member, and ways and means for reinforcement, which allow members better organize CBFP support to the Congo Basin;
- Agree on a number of basic principles and strategies necessary for the smooth functioning of CBFP by relying not only on the last review results, but also on the report produced at the end of each facilitation. Finally the next facilitator shall work on a roadmap where ways and means shall be indicated to operationalize partners' recommendations and decisions – how to fill the sense of belonging gap in some CBFP organizations and member States, raised by the two CBFP previous evaluations (2007 and 2010)?;
- COMIFAC's central role in forest policy definition and coordination of its member States is paramount. How can it be reinforced? And to avoid as much as possible that CBFP member States who rely on SE CBFP should be substituted to it? ;
- Legitimacy of facilitators and their mandate in the partnership;
- Impact on conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems, and on poverty reduction in Central Africa countries;
- EDF 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 – CBFP main product? ;
- Leading theme...;
- CBFP purpose – follow-up indicators (EDF ?) and means of action;
- Towards second generation corporation framework for CBFP (including an membership regulations – redefine CBFP membership and participation conditions...;
- Suggest new ideas for the preparation of CBFP roadmap. This roadmap shall serve as a guidance to facilitation activities for 2013 and 2014;
- Presentation of CBFP facilitation roadmap elements from 2013 to 2015;
- CBFP priorities of action and facilitation according to opportunities and constraints – CBFP work agenda for 2013
- Major events planned in the sub-region

Session 5 : International dialogue on Forest

- ✓ Follow-up of the Durban joint Statement on REDD –point on negotiations on climate change in the light of COP 19, Doha;
- ✓ State of implementation of COP 11 post Nagoya decisions of CBD in the Congo Basin (COP 11, Hyderabad, India);
- ✓ State of implementation of COP 11 decisions of NCCD (COP 11);
- ✓ RIO + 20 world transition towards green economy in the Congo Basin;
- ✓ State of advancement of the implementation of BEAC's FEVERT;
- ✓ State of implementation of cross-border protected areas in the Congo Basin;
- ✓ EDF 2012.

• Session 6: Closing ceremony

- ✓ Major events planned in the sub-region in 2013
- ✓ Presentation of the Douala Meeting of Partners major conclusions
- ✓ United States Ambassador's speech
- ✓ Closing speech from current COMIFAC President

3.3 Side-events– “Partnership exhibition”... March 19, 2013 from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, duration: 3 hours

The CBFP “former facilitations consortium” encourages you to actively take part in side-events organized by CBFP partners on March 19, 2013 from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. This initiative will allow the registered CBFP partners to make their programs and projects, the emerging and innovative results contributing to the implementation of convergence plan thrust known and strengthen synergies between partners.

To that effect, six side-events are already registered and shall function in parallel: for more information, please consult the provisional agenda: Download the provisional agenda of the 12th CBFP Meeting of Partners from March 18 to 20,2013 ([915.6 KB](#))

This framework will favor dialogue between CBFP partners on emerging and innovative results as a support to the COMIFAC convergence plan.

- **Side-event 1:** Central African World Heritage forest initiative (CAWHFI)
- **Side-event 2:** the Congo Basin forests – what FAO action strategy?
- **Side-event 3:** presentation of PAFC and PEFC (certification) certification systems
- **Side-event 4:** forest and environmental training as a tool for sustainable development in the Congo Basin: innovative results of RIFFEAC “training” projects
- **Side-event 5:** Effectiveness of the ECCAS Local Development Fund (LDF) in PACEBCo landscapes.
- **Side-event 6:** Regional atlas of land use in the COMIFAC area (GIZ-GFA)

4. Venue and duration

The 12th Meeting of Partners shall be held in Douala, Cameroon from March 18 to 20.