

Congo Basin Forest Partnership

Medium-term Priorities

(Final version submitted for validation by CBFP partners at the 17th MOP)

At the 16th meeting of the Parties held in Kigali in November 2016 "the Parties agreed to initiate a structured dialogue in the colleges and Council of CBFP with a view to arrive at a clear description of the priorities on which partners agree to focus CBFP cooperation during the coming 3-5 year period to be adopted at the next Meeting of Parties"⁽¹⁾.

In accordance with this decision, and on the basis of the work carried out at the level of the streams and the college meetings during the 16th MOP, the EU Facilitation Team compiled a first draft list of 19 medium-term priorities. This initial version was then distributed to college representatives, with a view to gathering comments and suggestions for improvements from all partners. In May 2017 a version amended on this basis was presented to the CBFP Council, which validated it with some minor amendments ⁽²⁾.

The final version of the medium-term priorities of CBFP, resulting from the process described above, is presented in the following pages.

It is important to bear in mind that the establishment of priorities is not intended to limit or narrow the activities undertaken by CBFP partners in the context of the partnership, but to codify these, in order to increase the visibility of the activities carried out by the partners as a whole, so as to improve the branding of the partnership ⁽³⁾. The ambition is to provide the partnership with a dynamic tool to categorize current and future partner actions, as well as to enable a better external communication pertaining to its activities.

The 19 medium-term priorities of CBFP are all, often in more ways than one, aligned with the strategic objectives of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems for the period 2015-2025. They also constitute a concrete operational framework for the implementation, in the countries of the Congo Basin, of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

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- 1 () See the final communiqué of the 16th CBFP MOP: http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/index_en.html?file=docs/16e-rdp-Kigali-2016/MOP-16-FINAL-COMMUNIQUE-CBFP-WITH-ATTACHMENTS-EN.pdf
 - 2 () See the Minutes from the 2nd meeting of the CBFP Council, <http://pfbc-cbfp.org/Conseil-du-PFBC.html>
 - 3 () As a matter of fact, the 19 priorities listed are already being pursued in various ways in the context of the numerous activities implemented by CBFP partners under their current work plans.

CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP : MEDIUM-TERM PRIORITIES (2018-2022)

Area 1. Promoting more efficient interaction and cooperation in the Congo Basin

Strengthening CBFP	
1	Promote an efficient and results-oriented governance of the Partnership
2	Convene the key actors for the region's economic development, including those in cabinets of the Presidents, the PMs and the Ministers of Finance and Economy, together with bankers and investors
3	Commitment by all CBFP partners to prioritize actions to promote the protection and sustainable management of the Congo Basin Forests in all relevant fora and within their own organizations
Promoting knowledge-based decision-making	
4	Promote information systems and others systems to support political decision-making in the region and improve the way in which relevant analyses and information are made available to decision-makers and are transformed into policies and the implementation of decisions
5	Promote sound research and training networks, increasing the role of social sciences, and strengthen the linkage between research and practice
Strengthening existing mechanisms and tools for more effective coordination and cooperation	
6	Support coordination platforms and thematic exchanges among partners involved in implementation of activities, and more specifically: a) develop a database of the interventions of CBFP technical and financial partners , organized on the basis of the main elements of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan; b) support technical exchanges between the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, academia and governments, in order to promote sustainable forest management and conservation.
Strengthening the role of COMIFAC in the Congo Basin	
7	Promote effective implementation of COMIFAC's mandate, including by strengthening the operational linkages between existing COMIFAC structures (Working Groups and Coordination meetings) and the activities of CBFP partners
8	Promote more effective contributions by civil society and the private sector to the planning and implementation of COMIFAC activities, and ensure that those contributions adequately integrate gender issues

Area 2. Thematic priority objectives and actions

Promoting the sustainable management and conservation of forest resources, notably by combating poaching and wildlife trafficking	
9	Promote the enforcement of international, regional and national laws and regulations in support of good governance
10	Integrate poaching and bush-meat issues in a socio-economic approach recognizing local constraints and needs
11	Promote trans-boundary/landscape approaches and the integration of security concerns in the gazetting and management of protected areas and forests concessions, notably harmonized anti-poaching activities in the most vulnerable border areas, such as Great Virunga, Garamba-Chinko, TNS, TRIDOM etc.
12	Promote the sustainable management of production forests at industrial and local scale, as well as the development of sustainable supply chains for timber products, including appropriate controls
Addressing the impact of non-forestry sectors and related land-use decisions on the Congo Basin Forests	
13	Mobilize key companies in the agro-industrial, mining and oil industries and support the development of sustainable commodity supply chains without causing adverse effects on good forest governance
14	Mobilize all relevant national public administrations (trade, economy, finance, infrastructure, land use, mining, etc.) and regional bodies (notably ECCAS) in order to promote shared and comprehensive decision-making processes on key cross-sectoral linkages of major importance to the protection and sustainable management of the Congo Basin Forests
Promoting sustainable economic development of local communities	
15	Promote community-based development initiatives (including livelihoods strategies) in conservation, forestry and sustainable development programs and strategies
16	Promote the recognition of land rights of local people and the consideration of gender issues in conservation, forestry, and sustainable development programs and strategies
Climate change	
17	Assist COMIFAC member states in developing and maintaining strong common positions in international climate negotiations
18	Promote exchanges with major ongoing climate-related initiatives in the Congo Basin (CAFI, bilateral or multilateral programs in the field of REDD+, FIP, NAPAs, NDC, NAMAs, LEDs, etc.)
19	Support mobilization and implementation at field level of climate finance mechanisms in COMIFAC member states