

REDD+/Nagoya Day

**A side event of the 9th Congo Basin Forest
Partnership (CBFP) Regional Advisory Committee**

**Report: major conclusions
Bujumbura, Burundi, 27-28 May 2011**

Canada

With the support of the Canadian Government

On 25 May 2011, the REDD+/Nagoya Day of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) took place in Bujumbura. This meeting was organised under the CBFP Facilitation with the financial support of the Canadian Government.

The overall objective of the meeting was to contribute in making the most out of the lessons learnt from the sustainability of the forest ecosystems of the Congo Basin and reduction of emissions caused by deforestation and forest degradation.

It specifically focussed on:

- Strengthening of discussions on the lessons learnt and recommendations of the Nagoya and Cancun Summits,
- Identifying the lessons learnt from the ongoing initiatives;
- Strengthening coordination in the development of emerging initiatives.

The main results expected from the meeting comprised:

- Sharing and making the most out of the Nagoya and Cancun recommendations;
- Inventory of funds, existing instruments and potentials;
- Sharing and making the most out of the lessons learnt on the implementation of these funds and coordination of initiatives.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Gaston Grenier, Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) and Mr Cléto Ndikumagenge, Facilitator and Delegate. Dr Denis Sonwa of CIFOR facilitated the introductory session. Mr Léonard Usongo of IUCN and Madam Ndayishimye Renilde of the Burundi Climate Focal Point facilitated the 2nd and 3rd sessions, respectively. The last session was facilitated by Dr Chimere Diaw of the Secretariat of the African Network of Model Forest (*SRAFM*). The meeting brought together about one hundred participants representing CBFP partners comprising:

- Representatives of the COMIFAC member countries and the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat ;
- Representatives of COMIFAC partner institutions (CEFDHAC, OFAC, OSFAC networks)
- Representatives of countries of the “North” that are CBFP members: Germany, Canada, United States, France and Norway;

- Representatives of international organisations and institutions (UNFF, World Bank, BDEAC, FAO, SRAFM, IUCN, CIFOR, CSF, USAID/CARPE)
- Representatives of Research Groups: CIRAD, ICRAF, CIFOR
- Representatives of the private sector:

1. Opening Ceremony

Three speeches were presented during the opening ceremony: One by Mr Gaston Grenier, CBFP Facilitator, the second by Mr Raymond Mbitikon, Executive Secretary of COMIFAC and the opening speech by H.E. Jean Marie Nibirantije, Minister of Water, Environment, Regional Development and Urban Planning (MEEATU).

2. Presentation during plenary meetings

The theme of the REDD+/Nagoya Day focussed on the “Implementation of the Cancun and Nagoya Recommendations”. Four sub-themes organised in plenaries were identified:

- Session 1 : Implementation of the Nagoya and Cancun Declaration
- Session 2 : Main REDD+ Challenges in Central Africa
- Session 3 : Lessons Learnt from the New Initiatives
- Session 4 : Emerging Initiatives

An average of three presentations per session was made in plenary throughout the day of the meeting (see REDD+/Nagoya Day programme using the following link: http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/programme.html?file=docs/ccr/kits_fr/Programme/journee/REDD/Nagoya-CCRC23/2005/2011-Fin_pour%20impression.pdf)

3. Facilitators’ Panel

A panel of session facilitators was set up at the end of the REDD+/Nagoya Day in order to give each session Facilitator the opportunity present the major conclusions, summaries and/or recommendations of the session.

The main recommendations and summaries formulated and presented by the Facilitators during the meetings comprised the following:

a) Summaries/Recommendations – Session 1. Implementation of the Nagoya and Cancun Declarations

Facilitator: Dr Denis Sonwa, CIFOR

- As part of the efforts in the structuring of the international framework on biodiversity and the fight against climate change, forest and forest resources occupy an important place. Countries of the COMIFAC zone, CBFP member countries and parties to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) were called upon to:
 - ✓ Ratify the Nagoya Protocol on the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) by the end of July 2012,
 - ✓ Take ownership of the COMIFAC VPA sub-regional strategy,
 - ✓ Review the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans on (NBSAP) by incorporating pertinent provisions of the Nagoya VPA Protocol and sub-regional strategy on the COMIFAC VPA.
- The typology of financing sources is becoming increasingly diversified (presently, it includes new sources such as Payments for Ecosystem Services, PES, related to the REDD+...). However, it is important to give greater visibility on the importance of the forest and to attract more local and international financing. It is also indispensable to better prepare Central African countries on access to multiple sources for the sustainable management of forests. The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is specifically working on these problems.
- The sustainability of forest sector financing depends on the international context (marked sometimes by financial crises) and national context (marked often by a poor capacity to mobilize financing). States of the sub-region are urged to formalise formal forest-sector financing structures but, above all, to make them operational. Mobilisation of finances (especially international) must be backed by a strong political commitment in the management of forest, which is necessary for a sustainable transformation.
- It is the wish that States should translate these international agreements and their progress (Cancun and Nagoya) within the institutional framework of their countries (as mentioned in (1) on biodiversity). That States and CBFP partners should support Technical Groups (like those on biodiversity and climate change) and help them to become operational (both in thematic

meetings and in their participation in international forums). Central African Technical Groups should try to catalyze their African position around negotiations on climate and biodiversity, and they need to be encouraged.

- There is need to strengthen cooperation between Central African countries and their partners in order to better manage forests and attain international commitments made in the area of CBD, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UNFF, and by meeting these development goals.

b) Summary/Recommendations - Session 2: Main REDD+ Challenges in Central Africa

Facilitator: Léonard Usongo, IUCN

- Decision makers and the civil society must identify land tenure plans that guarantee the rights of communities and take in to account the interests of stakeholders.
- COMIFAC should adopt a carbon stock estimation methodology.
- Harmonisation of the Measurement, Notification, and Verification system (MNV) on the basis of experiences from existing research.
- Make Green Funds operational in the Congo Basin, with the Green Funds helping to promote financing entities such as the Development Bank of Central African States (BDEAC).

c) Summary/Recommendations - Session 3: Lessons Learnt from the New Initiatives

Facilitator: Climate Focal Point Burundi, Mme Ndayishimye Renilde

- Adaptation and mitigation are taken into account in the national and regional strategies considering local communities.
- The Model Forest is a strong model on sustainable management of forests and the environment, which encourages sustainable and innovative economic development. This model supports sustainable forest management through synergy between “Action- innovation and sustainable development”.

- It is necessary to strengthen COMIFAC leadership in international negotiations in order to ensure that the sub-region effectively benefits from the MNV market mechanisms and REDD+; in short, from the Climate Green Fund.
- It is necessary to preserve and maintain unity within COMIFAC in the promotion of the financing mechanism.
- It is necessary to incorporate REDD+ in the legislations of COMIFAC countries.

d) **Summary/Recommendations - Session 4: Emerging Initiatives**

Facilitator: Dr Chimere Diaw, Secretariat of the Network of African Model Forests (SRAFM)

- **Questions** on the type of reforms, stakeholders and conditions necessary for a carbon market and a better understanding by the States of the stakes involved. What will happen when the economy changes and is it certain that it will change?
 - ✓ Sure elements: Irrevocable titles, enforceable contracts;
 - ✓ Expectations of States: A lot of dollars.
- **Uncertainties:** Situation of the carbon money; differences in the positions of States on REDD issues. Uncertainties related to global compensation measures and at the level of international financing (amount, calendar and allocation principles); to owners of forest carbon; to the land forest issue: Poorly defined and disputed ownership rights, and more generally, private rights involved in collective rights.
- **Challenges:**
 - ✓ Implementation of agreements;
 - ✓ Capacity building on the management of Protected Areas (PA);
 - ✓ Effective involvement of the communities (stakes concerning neighbouring PA);
 - ✓ Necessity of public-private collaboration;
 - ✓ Etc.

- **Some recommendations**

- ✓ The scope of governance, its strategic link and importance to the REDD process at the international, national and local levels. Uncertainties must be included in the strategy including mainstreaming in the widest context of biodiversity development and climate change; In addition to negotiations, the public-private aspect, which is very absent, should be included in negotiations;
- ✓ Need to specify the type of reform expected, the stakeholders and conditions required for a carbon market;
- ✓ Institution of a well structured and operational multi-stakeholder dialogue;
- ✓ Need to strengthen the participation of communities in political dialogues;
- ✓ Need to reflect on land acquisition in order to allow communities own concession rights;
- ✓ Need to create favourable conditions for the putting place of better designed national strategies than those in place.

Done in Bujumbura on 25 May 2011
Participants