

Focus of work of the Streams for the 16th annual CBFP Meeting of Parties

As already announced, five streams will be organised for the 16th annual CBFP Meeting of Parties to be held in Kigali on 21-26 November 2016.

Together with the partners that have agreed to lead the work of the respective streams, the EU Facilitation of CBFP has identified a set of key issues on which the work of the respective streams should focus. These issues are listed below.

Stream 1: Forest management policies and land use planning

Leaders: WRI (World Resource Institute) and COMIFAC Governance Working Group

Key Issues to be addressed:

- Managing forests beyond timber and wildlife: in need of a new Sustainable forest management (SFM) paradigm
 - Coping with the effects of the growing commodity boom on forested lands
 - Old style logging permits returned to state domain
- Using forest monitoring tools to guide policy decisions
- Establishing a common approach to land use planning under REDD+ schemes? A discussion
- Land use planning at the local level: building on the experience gathered in the different countries of the sub region
- Applying the landscape approach at the regional / provincial administrative levels: a review of opportunities and challenges for sustainable development

Stream 2: Conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources, including the fight against wildlife trafficking

Leaders: AWF, WCS, COMIFAC Biodiversity Working Group (GTBAC)

Key Issues to be addressed:

- Conclusions to be drawn from the evolution of the conservation paradigm from strict conservation models towards frameworks taking more into account the socio-economic and political interest of Central African countries.
- How to integrate conservation investments in national economic planning perspectives.
- Prospects and constraints for developing successful eco-tourism in Central Africa, including lessons learned by Rwanda and other parts of the Great Lakes Region.
- Given that IWT is a major source of illicit finance for armed groups destabilising the region, how to successfully link IWT to state security/defence concerns and the fight against organized crime.
- Review of best practice and lessons learned regarding the coordination between various actors (military, law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, park authorities etc) in the fight against IWT.

- Explore the possibilities of developing a "rapid response mechanism" which would allow for the rapid mobilisation of resources and actions in response to poaching events.

Stream 3: Climate Change

Leaders: World Bank and COMIFAC Climate Working Group

Key Issues to be addressed:

- Moving forward with implementing Congo Basin climate action plans under the Paris Agreement
- Next steps towards implementing NDCs and their further development
- Agriculture and forestry interface / food security – zero deforestation – state of play in the region
- Climate change adaptation challenges: Central African success stories, challenges and opportunities for Congo Basin countries
- Linking with private sector demands, FLEGT and REDD+ initiatives (examples: the use of REDD standards for legality verification when APV/FLEGT grid, demand for carbon certification...)
- Investment plans in the framework of REDD+, non-carbon benefits and payments for environmental services in the context of existing laws and economic instruments
- Climate finance:
 1. Stock-taking of climate change financing mechanisms that are already operational (GCF, AF, GEF, CAFI, Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA), FCPF, etc): main characteristics, strategic priorities and objectives, access arrangements, funding application procedures, eligibility criteria and project reviews
 2. Consideration of how Central African countries can gain access to and successfully apply for funding from the existing climate finance mechanisms. This should include concrete illustrations of best practice in terms of preparing for and gaining access to these mechanisms
 3. Consideration of how to promote synergies and exchange between the various climate change finance mechanisms of relevance to Central Africa and related activities to address climate issues in the region

Stream 4 Sustainable economic development and private sector

Leaders: ATIBT, FAO

Key Issues to be addressed:

- Specific for forest sector
 - Private certification of forest operators: current trends, potential and risks
 - Market challenges in a changing landscape of timber trade (change in global timber flows, increase of domestic flows, regional market and demand...)
 - Integrating national political strategies and a viable forestry economy: finding a balance between the need for tax revenues and attractive

investment possibilities, and the need to ensure sustainable management of forest resources

- Non forest sector enterprises integrating protection of forests issues
 - The examples of “no deforestation” chains of custody: growing interest, challenges for implementation
 - Link with land use / how a clear national spatial planning is an incentive for private investment?
- Green economy and mobilisation of financial resources
 - A practical example of green economy in Central Africa: the experience of Virunga, and the preconditions for a specific success
 - Landscape approach and investment: how financial resources can be channelled toward forest investments in Central Africa

Stream 5: Knowledge-based decision-making

Leaders: Academic Consortium of the CBFP

Key Issues to be addressed:

- Identification of priority topics to be addressed by scientists and technicians in support of decision/policy making about the forest ecosystems/landscapes of Central Africa
- Current impact of research in the development of the Forestry and Environment sectors in the Congo Basin
- Communication strategies for science-policy dialogue
- Setting up of network of forest research institutions active in the Congo Basin with an emphasis on internalization by national research systems
- Ideas and opportunities for joint research programs/projects