

Side-event on the GEF7 Program for the Congo Basin

28th of November 2018, 14.00-15.30, Egmont Palace, Conference Center, Europe Room,
Congo Basin Forest Partnership Meetings

Pitch: Three presentations, three discussants, to discuss the three main focus elements of the GEF7 Program for the Congo Basin: 90' side event at the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Meetings, CBFPP, Brussels, Wednesday November 28th, 2018, 14.00-15.30, Europe Room, Egmont Palace, Conference Center.

How to prioritize the landscapes and anticipate the climate change on dense rainforests? Are ecological corridors so important? Which Non-Timber Forest Products Value-Chains are possible with local communities and the private sector? How will the regional and national levels be articulated? For instance, for biodiversity?

Dr. Verina Ingram, University of Wageningen, Dr. Tom Smith, UCLA/Congo Basin Institute, and Johan Robinson, UN Environment, will respond to questions from Nadege Nzoyem, Dr. Emma Stokes, and Dr. Kenneth Angu. Dr. Claude Gascon and Jean-Marc Sinnassamy will facilitate the dialogue on behalf the Global Environment Facility, GEF.

About the GEF7 Congo Basin Programme

- The Replenishment of the GEF was celebrated in Danang, Vietnam, on June 25-29 2018, at a height of \$4.061 billion for the GEF7 period (July 2018-June 2022). It is a significant support from the International community and a recognition to the Global Environment Facility to protect the future of the planet and human well-being. The approved programming documents include an Impact Program on Sustainable Forest Management, with a focus on three different geographies, including the Congo Basin (<http://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-7-programming-directions>).
- The novelty of the GEF7 Impact Program on Sustainable Forest Management resides in the aim to maintain the ecological integrity of entire biomes by concentrating efforts, focus, and investments, as well as ensuring strong regional cross-border coordination. The SFM IP will address the drivers of forest loss and degradation through strategies aimed at creating a better enabling environment for forest governance; supporting rational land-use planning across mixed-use landscapes.
- A High-Level Round Table on the Congo Basin, was organized in Danang on June 28, 2018, with three Ministers from the region, renowned specialists on biodiversity, ecology, forest dependent people, and private sector. The following messages and perspectives were identified to look ahead:
 - It is essential to articulate the sectoral plans for development in the Congo Basin countries. Economic plans are often dependent on oil, mining, timber, agroindustry sectors. For the Congo Basin to be managed sustainably, countries need to include ecosystem values in planning and decision-making processes.
 - It is key to involve communities in these valuations. For instance, payment for ecosystem services programs need to engage with local communities and indigenous people.

- Additionally, SFM efforts need to coordinate actions with initiatives aiming to tackle some emerging problems that go beyond the environmental field such as poaching, trafficking, and illegal timber. These challenges are rooted into the conditions of fragility, violence, and conflict present in the region, as well as dependent on international networks of organized crime.
- Finally, there is an urgent need for long term monitoring and understanding of Congo Basin ecosystems and promoting science-based actions. Particularly, it is important to develop a better understanding of the ecosystem/people interactions and harnessing indigenous people knowledge to replicate solutions and strengthening bottom up approaches.

http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF%20Assembly_Amazon%20Factsheet_9.4.18.pdf

Side event objectives and run-of-the-show

Building on the High level discussed messages above, this GEF side-event aims to give the floor to leading experts to illustrate these directions and give operational recommendations. A discussion on the main focus-elements of the program – intact dense rainforests, biodiversity, forest dependent communities, and private sector – will be proposed to see how these operational recommendations can be included at the level of the national projects and the regional component.

| Time | Run-of-the-Show | Who | How |
|---------------|--|---|--------------------------|
| 14.00-14.10 | Welcoming, roundtable, if time permits | Jean-Marc Sinnassamy | Talk |
| 14.10 – 14.20 | GEF7 replenishment, GEF Assembly’s messages, Principles of the Impact Programs | Claude Gascon | Talk |
| 14.20 – 14.40 | Climate Change Impact Predictions on Congo Basin Forests: Consequences in terms of conservation prioritization, focus on dense rainforests, role of land-use planning policies, importance of ecological corridors | Tom Smith | Power-point Presentation |
| 14.40 – 14.55 | The role of the Private Sector, Sustainable Non-Timber Forest Product Value Chains, Inclusion of Forest Dependent Communities | Verina Ingram | Power-point Presentation |
| 14.55-15.10 | Added value of the regional level and complementarity with country-based projects. Example of Biodiversity | Johan Robinson | Talk |
| 15.10-15.25 | Recognized discussants on the side event topics will interact with the panel and ask questions in view of formulating recommendations at the national and regional level, piggybacking on baseline initiatives; Questions & Answers with the audience, if time permits | Kenneth Angu Angu; Nadège Nzoyem; Emma Stokes | Talk |
| 15.25 – 15.30 | Next steps – Calendar – Programming | Jean-Marc Sinnassamy | Talk |

BIO of Speakers and Discussants

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|  | <p>Verina Ingram a social scientist at the University of Wageningen, focusing on the interactions between people, natural resources and markets. Verina is notably interested in governance practices and arrangements in forest and natural product value chains, with public, private actors, local communities, including forest dependent people, women, and exclusivity/inclusiveness issues. Verina has developed several research programs on tropical commodity value chains (timber, non-timber and agricultural tree products), evaluating impacts on sustainability, livelihoods and landscapes, and improvements via different governance arrangements: regulation, customary, collective and market-driven such as certification and Corporate Social Responsibility Schemes.</p> |
|  | <p>Thomas B. Smith is Founding Director of the Center for Tropical Research, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, Founding Co-Director of the Congo Basin Institute, and Professor at UCLA. A central focus of his research investigates how biodiversity is generated and maintained in tropical rainforests. With more than 35 years of worldwide experience, his work points to more effective approaches of prioritizing regions for conservation and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Recently, he helped to create the Congo Basin Institute (CBI) that serves as a regional nexus for interdisciplinary research focused on critical issues in the Congo Basin: climate change, water and food security, biodiversity and human health. CBI was founded by IITA and UCLA, and now consists of more than 14 partners from all over the world.</p> |
|  | <p>Horly Nadege Nzoyem is manager for Central Africa at The Rainforest Alliance since 2014. Nadège is a forest & wildlife engineer from the University of Dschang (Cameroon) with MSc in forestry from the University of Bangor (United Kingdom). She has over 15 years of experience in different aspects of community-based landscape management with a focus on community forestry approaches and livelihoods strategies for forest dependent communities. Issues relating to sustainable consumption and production with focus on building sustainable value chains are central to her work; she oversees both farming and forestry strategies that improve sustainable economic opportunities while incentivizing natural resources conservation.</p> |
|  | <p>Kenneth Angu Angu is the IUCN Regional Forest Program Coordinator for Central and West Africa. He has been working with the likes of USAID and the Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment to lay the groundwork across the Congo Basin for meaningful participation in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+). Dr. Kenneth Angu Angu is particularly interested in working from the local to the national level and the reinforcement of national and regional non-governmental organization to push for regulatory and policy reforms that promote REDD+ and respect indigenous people's rights.</p> |

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|  | <p>Emma Stokes has been working with World Conservation Society, WCS, since 1999. She is currently WCS's <i>Regional Advisor and Conservation Scientist</i>, based in Gabon, in charge of conservation effectiveness for WCS programs in Africa and on law enforcement monitoring globally. She acquired significant fieldwork experience and coordinated implementation of wildlife conservation and monitoring programmes in Asia, Uganda, and Republic of Congo, notably on Apes and elephants. She had an instrumental role in the first regional conservation action plan for chimpanzees and gorillas in West Equatorial Africa in 2005 and documented new ape populations in Northern Congo in 2006 that revised the global estimate for western lowland gorillas.</p> |
|  | <p>Johan Robinson is currently Chief of the GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation Unit in UN Environment's Ecosystem Division. Johan has over 20 years of experience in biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, and sustainable development in various regions. He has specific expertise in the areas of protected area management and finance, mainstreaming biodiversity into production sectors, and ecosystem-based climate change adaptation and mitigation. Johan was previously working at UNDP and before that for several environmental and biodiversity projects in Tanzania, Cambodia, Botswana, Zambia and Seychelles.</p> |
|  | <p>Claude Gascon is Manager of the Program Unit (35 Staff) at the GEF Secretariat. He manages the regional teams for programming around one billion of US dollars per year in the different focal areas – Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation, Land Degradation, International Waters, Chemicals & Waste. He also manages the team in charge of Least Developed Countries Fund, LDCF, and Special Climate Countries Fund, SCCF, for adaptation. Before joining the GEF, Claude was Vice-President at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and previously at Conservation International. His areas of research mainly include Amazonian Biodiversity, and especially amphibians. He acts as co-chair of the Amphibian Survival Alliance.</p> |
|  | <p>Jean-Marc Sinnassamy is Senior Environmental Specialist at the GEF Secretariat. Jean-Marc has 25 years of experience in program development. He works in Africa and Small Islands Developing States, particularly interested in landscape approaches, governance and natural resources management for multiple global environment benefits and livelihoods, notably for smallholder farmers. At the GEF, he is coordinating several programmatic approaches related to the Sahel, the Congo Basin, and Food Security. He has past experiences in conservation, wetland and coastal area management in West Africa and the Mediterranean.</p> |