



**CONCEPT NOTE FOR
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SESSION
AT THE CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP (CBFP) DOUALA MEETING
17 DECEMBER 2019
16h15-17h00
PULLMAN HOTEL – DOUALA - CAMEROON**

INTRODUCTION

Capacity development is the ability of individuals, teams, constituencies, and organizations to develop and enhance their systems, resources, and knowledge, all reflected in their abilities, individually and collectively, to perform functions, solve problems, and achieve objectives¹. Capacity development for wildlife conservation in Central Africa needs continued strengthening to adapt to the growing threats that impact wildlife, their habitats, and the livelihoods of local people. Central African government agencies, donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and universities support training efforts at multiple levels to achieve wildlife conservation objectives.

Based on the successful Roundtable Discussion at the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Meeting in Brussels, Belgium (November 28, 2018), the 23 participants attending from 20 organizations in a variety of countries decided to form a CBFP Working Group on Wildlife Conservation Capacity Development in

¹ Adapted from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Central Africa. The purpose of the Working Group is to think long-term about capacity development and to share collective efforts to support and develop capacity for conservation in the region.

Conservation is a long-term proposition where success is measured by the successful conservation of species and their habitats. Long life cycles of many of the wildlife species require thinking not in 1 to 3 year project cycles, but rather in decades. Capacity development is also a long-term proposition. Human and institutional capacity is not created and sustained through attainment of a single degree or completion of a week-long training course. Rather, ongoing learning and training is needed throughout conservationists' careers for so many obvious reasons. Unfortunately, donors often provide short-term project funding to achieve specific short-term objectives; however, long-term systematic workforce planning is essential to develop capacity for organizations, both within NGOs and government as well as the private sector. By sharing collective efforts, partners can avoid duplication of effort and learn from each other on new approaches and best practices in capacity building.

PURPOSE OF SESSION AT DOUALA 17th DECEMBER 2019 CBFP MEETING

The purpose of the proposed session at the Douala (Cameroon) December 2019 CBFP Meeting is to increase the visibility of the CBFP Working Group on Wildlife Conservation Capacity Development in Central Africa to all partners and to determine concrete ways that partners can contribute.

The proposed session will:

- Talk about priorities for wildlife conservation capacity development in the Congo Basin
- Discuss the purpose of the CBFP Working Group
- Determine the most effective methods of communication and information sharing among the CBFP Working Group members and interested others
- Share current support and priority efforts.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION planned at December 17th from 15:30 to 17h00

1. Presentation of the CBFP Capacity Development Working Group and Achievements
2. General discussions following proposed outlines.

ORGANIZERS

Dany Pokem, Technical Coordinator - Communications/Outreach/Membership, Liaison and Meetings Manager for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)

Francis Tarla, Central Africa Bushmeat Action Group (CABAG), and Zoological Society of London (Coordinator of the Working Group)

Nancy Gelman, Program Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of International Conservation, Africa Branch

Matt Luizza, Program Officer, Sudano-Sahel Initiative. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of International Conservation, Africa Branch