

Regional workshop - Sustainable Value Chains 2024 (SVC 2024)

From the 16 to 18 December 2024
Akwa Palace, Douala, Cameroon

“From Kinshasa to Douala heading to Belém - Sustainable Value Chains in Central Africa: Challenges, perspectives and strategies!”

The French and Gabonese co-facilitation of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) jointly, with the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) organised a regional workshop on sustainable value chains from **16 -18 December 2024** at the Akwa Palace Hotel in Douala, Cameroon.

This regional workshop was organised in close collaboration with the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEEAC), the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) and the support of the Cameroonian government.

It was organised with the financial support of the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEFA) and implemented by the French Development Agency (AFD) and Expertise France.

This regional workshop gathered about 200 participants including high-level officials of Central Africa, financial partners, international organisations, NGOs, civil society, representatives of research institutions and of the private sector. It was marked by the presence of H.E. Jules Doret Ndjongo, Cameroon’s Forestry and Wildlife Minister, who as his usual contributed to the success of the workshop.

Based on decisions taken at the thematic workshop on the CBFP 20th Meeting of Parties on sustainable chain values, this workshop aimed, on the one hand, to promote the development of sustainable economic sectors fighting deforestation in the Congo Basin. And, on the other hand, to lay of political, strategic and pragmatic foundations of sustainable value chains thereby answering the urgent need to speed-up the creation of local added values against the 30th session of the Conference of Parties at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP 30 Climate) that shall hold in Belém, Brazil, 2025.

To this effect, according to the programme, the opening ceremony was chaired by H.E. **Mr Jules Doret Ndongo Cameroon’s Forestry and Wildlife Minister with addresses from the following:**

- **Ambassador, Dr Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo, CBFP Co-Facilitator of the Republic of Gabon;**
- Ambassador, Mrs Salina Grenet-Catalano, French Co-Facilitator represented by Mr **Christophe Ducastel** from the French Development Agency (AFD);
- **Mr Daniel Claude Abaté**, Vice Chairperson of the Central African, High business council.
- Dr Francial Giscard Baudin LIBENGUE DOBELE-KPOKA, Commissioner of the Department of Infrastructures and Sustainable Development, represented by **Mr Grégory Lionel BEYINA**, Director of Industrial Development, Mines and Tourism and of the Department of Infrastructures and Sustainable Development of the CEMAC Commission.



- **Dr Hervé Martial Maidou**, Executive Secretary of the COMIFAC
- **His Excellency Mr Jules Doret Ndongo**, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, Cameroon

The opening ceremony was followed by nine sessions on:

- Introductory session on Sustainable Value Chains: Stakes, opportunities, prospects, strategies and transversality, facilitated by ATIBT;
- Session 1- Resource mobilisation and development model, facilitated by ATIBT;
- Session 2-log export ban facilitated by ATIBT
- Session 3- Industrial model, facilitated by ATIBT;
- Session 4a: Promoting ecotourism in the Congo Basin, facilitated by TETRATECH and USAID;
- Session 4b: Natural capital of Congo Basin forests, facilitated by the FAO;
- Session 5a - PFLN - Bioeconomy - Bio innovation – NCE, facilitated by the FAO;
- Session 5b - social forestry/Participative, facilitated by the FAO;
- Session 6 - European Union's Deforestation Regulations (EUDR);
- Session 7- Planning, land tenures, facilitated by the CBFP Co-Facilitation;
- Session 8 - Sustainable territories and commodities, facilitated by Rainforest Alliance;
- Session 9-landscape restoration, facilitated by the UICN.

After the intensive sessions, a plenary session was organised around 4 panels dealing with major recommendations of the various sessions, namely;

- Restitution Plenary 1 - Panel of facilitators and Rapporteurs from sessions 0, 1, 2 and 3, by **Francois Van de Ven, ATIBT and Francois Busson as Resource Persons**
- Restitution Plenary 2 - Panel of Facilitators and Rapporteurs from sessions 4a, b, 5a, b by **Dr Jeremie Mbairamadji, Coordinator of Central African Forests, FAO**
- Restitution Plenary 3 - Panel of Facilitators and Rapporteur of Session 6, by the European Union, by **Stephen.PEEDELL, Minister Counsellor of the EU Delegation to Cameroon**
- Restitution Plenary 4 - Panel of Facilitators and Rapporteurs for sessions 7, 8 and 9 by **Ms Nadege Zoyem, Senior Regional Director, Rainforest Alliance.**

All these recommendations are available in **appendix A** of this press release.

Participants expressed their gratitude to the Session Facilitators and all efforts made in organising this workshop. This undoubtedly reveals and attests of the spirit of partnership within the CBFP. These are contributions towards greater synergies and merging partners' initiatives, with a view to increasing the efficiency of the later and operations for the preservation and sustainable management and community development in Central Africa. Named her are the session facilitators: ATIBT for 4 sessions, FAO for 3 sessions, the European Union, Rainforest Alliance and IUCN for one session each.

The workshop on sustainable value chains held simultaneously with “an informal technical meeting on lessons learned from Congo Basin Pledge 1.0 (2021-2025), existing initiatives and financing mechanisms, and brainstorming on Congo Basin Pledge 2.0 Post-2025”. This side event was organised by the co-Facilitation of the CBFP Republics of France and Gabon, COMIFAC and the co-facilitators of the MoP20 of CBFP Finance Thematic Workshop (AfDB, GIZ). The meeting, which brought together representatives of the CBFP Governing Council and COMIFAC countries, was co-chaired by the CBFP Co-Facilitator for the Republic of



Gabon and the Deputy Executive Secretary and Technical Coordinator of COMIFAC. Including about twenty participants. This meeting was held in two phases; 16 & 17 December 2024. The minutes are **annexed B1.2** to this final communiqué.

The closing ceremony brought to a close the works of the Regional Workshop - Sustainable Value Chains 2024 (SVC 2024): “From Kinshasa to Douala heading to Belém - Sustainable Value Chains in Central Africa: Challenges, perspectives and strategies! ” It was structured around the following speeches:

- **Ambassador, Dr Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo, CBFP Co-Facilitator of the Republic of Gabon;**
- Reading of the workshop’s final Communiqué
- Ambassador, Mrs Salina Grenet-Catalano, French Co-Facilitator represented by Mr **Christophe Ducastel** from the French Development Agency (AFD);
- Closing remarks of **Dr Hervé Martial Maidou**, Executive Secretary of the COMIFAC

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Cameroonian authorities for their warm welcome, which shows the commitment of Cameroon and countries of ECAAC/COMIFAC region to the issue of sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests.

Done in Douala (Cameroon), December 18, 2024

Participants



Workshop on Value Chains - Douala, 16th -18th December 2024

Recommendations

Inaugural Session, State of Resources, Log Export, Industrial Model

- Operationalize the regional strategy for the development of forest value chains in Central Africa with the involvement of various stakeholders in their respective fields of responsibility:
 - Regional organizations and Congo Basin states ensure the harmonization of legislative, fiscal and regulatory frameworks to avoid competition and distortions between countries
 - Congo Basin states ensure a secure investment framework (clear and consistent legislative and regulatory framework, access to secure land for industrial installations and plantations) and a gradual and planned approach to new log export ban measures and processing obligations.
 - States, partners and investors strengthen the quality of infrastructure in the sub-region, particularly with regard to roads and access to energy.
 - Banks and partners set up mechanisms for access to credit allowing investments on the desired scale.
- Ensure strong and sustained involvement of Congo Basin states in the development and implementation of international frameworks on forest species trade, particularly CITES. This involves national management and scientific bodies, as well as customs services, equipped with trained personnel dedicated to these tasks and resources. This also involves scientific studies to update knowledge on targeted species.
- Update the framework for industrial forest exploitation in Congo Basin countries, with the aim of developing "second-generation" management plans (second rotation) This update should secure the legal basis for exploitation, integrate the latest scientific knowledge on species renewal and lessons learned from the first exploitation cycle, allow the use of new technologies, and be based on a transparent and consistent legislative and regulatory framework. To this end, it is recommended to establish a national task force or multi-stakeholder committee to coordinate the process of developing "second generation" management plans. (second rotation).

Session - Ecotourism

- Harmonize sectoral policies to promote the Congo Basin as a tourist destination by developing a regional branding strategy. This harmonization must be preceded by national strategies highlighting the tourist particularities of each country.
- Intensify communication campaigns both nationally and internationally to generate increased interest in the region's tourist assets.

- Involve the private sector through Public-Private Partnership models in the process of developing the value chains of ecotourism. This will also help address the challenges related to hospitality infrastructure.
- Involve local communities and indigenous peoples to ensure sustainable economic benefits. Strengthen national tourism.
- Highlight the results of the sustainable management approach in forest concessions by integrating them into national tourist circuits.
- Establish an intergovernmental commission to coordinate the efforts of Central African countries in creating a community tourism policy, promoting the opening of borders and enhanced cooperation.
- Encourage the opening of borders by simplifying visa application procedures in the countries of the Congo Basin, in order to stimulate tourist flows and enhance regional attractiveness. The experience of the tri-national Sangha transboundary complex can be leveraged for this purpose.

Sessions - Bio-economy, social forestry

- Create favourable conditions (Political, Legal, Institutional) to encourage and facilitate investments in the transformation of NTFPs and the development of sustainable value chains;
- Create the conditions to lay hold on the opportunities offered by climate financing and other types of financing for resource mobilization in the development of sustainable value chains;
- Strengthen and make more visible the contribution of bio-economy and bio-innovation in the development of sustainable forest value chains.
- Support countries through the development and implementation of regional programs to assist in the transformation and valorization of NTFPs and the development of sustainable value chains;
- Support countries in seizing the opportunities offered by the bio-economy, social forestry, and the uses of bamboo and NTFPs to improve the living conditions of populations and national economies;
- Support countries in the process of assessing natural capital, forest carbon, and ecosystem services of the Congo Basin forests and their contribution to national economies:



- Support the countries and regional organizations in conducting the assessment of natural capital, forest carbon, and ecosystem services of the Congo Basin forests and in developing sustainable value chains.

Session - European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)

- Make use of the pre-implementation year to test the tools presented by the DG ENV and take advantage of the support resources available for operators.
- Make use of the CBFP network to share and exchange field experiences that address the challenges of implementing the EUDR on the ground.
- Articulate spatial and macroeconomic data with information from the field, particularly regarding to land status and land use planning.
- Rely on accessible, high-quality, reliable and verifiable data on parcel location.

Session - Land use Planning

- It is vital to engage in the process of land use planning due to increasing competition for space and associated conflict risks.
- National frameworks and tools are not yet consistent across different scales (national, regional, local) and are difficult to manage at the municipal level.
- We must avoid a "top-down" approach to land use planning and formally take into account the rights and practices of local populations and indigenous peoples.
- "High-tech" tools can manage a lot of information and save time, but they must be accessible to all, transparent, verifiable and avoid redundancies/competition between tools.
- Develop transparent and efficient tools for environmental service payments, allowing field actors to be involved and contributing to the financing of their investments.

Session - Sustainable Territories

- Articulate the different scales of territorial planning by facilitating dialogue between the various economic sectors and strengthening the consideration of the local level.
- Provide municipal and inter-municipal institutions with the technical and financial means to fulfill their mandates in terms of their land use planning.

- Support local governance structures, such as municipal landscape management commissions and/or sustainable landscape management committees, which are multi-stakeholder structures at the municipal or inter-municipal level.
- Take into account the expectations of local economic actors.
- Promote monitoring and certification tools for value chains and territories, such as RSPO and LandScale.

Session - Restoration

- Improve the political, legal, and financial environment, including land tenure security, to enable a coordinated development of landscape restoration actions.
- Accelerate restoration actions by local communities, including indigenous peoples, producer organizations, and decentralized entities.
- Promote the development of value-added based on restoration, commercial innovation by local communities.
- Lay hold of the opportunities offered by carbon and biodiversity markets to contribute to the financing of restoration.
- Improve the monitoring and evaluation of landscape restoration and the sharing of knowledge.



Side Event Informal technical meeting on takeaways from the Congo Basin Pledge 1.0 (2021-2025), existing initiatives and funding mechanisms and reflections, brainstorming on the Congo Basin Pledge 2.0. Post 2025/-Fair Deal 2.0, Day 1, 16 December 2024 from 5:15p.m. to 7:15p.m. and Day 2, 17 December from 5:15p.m. to 7:15p.m., Hotel Akwa Palace.

MINUTES

In parallel with the regional workshop on “From Kinshasa to Douala heading to Belém - Sustainable Value Chains in Central Africa: Challenges, perspectives and strategies!” organised by the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), an informal technical meeting was held with the aim of contributing to discussions on the roadmap for regional and international mobilisation to ensure inclusive and ideal preparation of the Congo Basin Pledge 2.0 between now and COP 30 in Belem. The meeting brought together COMIFAC, the CBFP Co-facilitation, representatives of COMIFAC member states and representatives of the CBFP colleges. The following results were achieved at this meeting:

- Participants were briefed on the background to the preparation and implementation of the Congo Basin Pledge 1.0;
- Participants shared lessons learned from the Congo Basin Pledge 1.0;
- the analysis of forest funding mechanisms currently under discussion at international level (Tropical Forest Mechanism and Tropical Forest Forever Facility) was shared;
- initiatives to finance the forests of the Congo Basin that could serve as a receptacle for the Congo Basin Pledge 2.0 currently under development.

At the end of this meeting, the following recommendations can be made:

- the lessons learned from the Congo Basin Pledge 1.0 and other forest funding mechanisms should continue to be collected from the various categories of stakeholders;
- Create synergies between various funding initiatives to leverage on the instruments and approaches they put forward as part of the preparation of the Congo Basin Pledge 2.0;
- The roadmap for the preparation of the Congo Basin Pledge 2.0, which has been jointly revised, must be shared with the various stakeholders.



Side event: Informal technical meeting on the lessons learned from the Congo Basin Pledge 1.0 (2021-2025), existing initiatives and funding mechanisms, reflections, brainstorming on the Congo Basin Pledge 2.0 Post-2025 / - Fair Deal 2.0, Day 1, 16th December 2024, from 5:15 PM to 7:15 PM and Day 2, 17th December from 5:15 PM to 7:15 PM, Akwa Palace Hotel

ROADMAP CONGO BASIN PLEDGE 2.0 COMIFAC-CBFP (revised)

Activities	Facilitator	Deadline
Phase 1 launch of reflections, design, and validation of the CBP mechanism 2.0		
Meeting of the Donor College	France	September 2024
Meeting of the Finance Working Group of COMIFAC	COMIFAC/GIZ (CBFP Co-Facilitation)	September 2024
Meeting of the Climate Working Group of COMIFAC	COMIFAC/GIZ (CBFP Co-Facilitation)	19th-21st October 2024
Analysis of the Summary of the Task Force "Fair Deal" report, the concept note of the Tropical Forest Mechanism and the Tropical Forest Forever Facility and Fair Deal, and proposal of a Policy Brief	COMIFAC and GIZ COMIFAC (CBFP Co-Facilitation)	October 2024
Proposal for a brainstorming note towards the CBP 1 post 2025 – CBP 2.0	Co-Facilitation CBFP	October 2024
Publishing of a Policy Brief on the TTF and TFM	COMIFAC - GIZ	November 2024
Consultation on the post-CBP 1 Post 2025 – CBP 2.0 during the three COPs - October/November 2024, COP 16 / COP29 Colombia and Azerbaijan and within the donor college and regional college	Co-Facilitation and COMIFAC	October 2024 - December 2024
Study on the lessons learned from CBFF, CAFI, CBP 1.0, Country Package, Forest Partnership, CAFI PES, CB-HIFI, HIFOR, international financial mechanisms, etc.	COMIFAC – GIZ - CBFP Facilitation	December 2024 and February 2025
Meeting of the Donor College on the lessons learned from CBP 1.0, CAFI, CBFF, etc.	President of the Donor College	16th January 2025
High-Level CAFI Conference in Kinshasa on the establishment of an Environmental Services Payment (ESP) mechanism in the Congo Basin towards CBP 2.0 - Fair Deal	CAFI Secretariat	27th-29th January 2025
Technical workshop for the preparation of COMIFAC country experts on CBP 2.0, including among other things the lessons learned from international financial mechanisms towards CBP 2.0	COMIFAC, Co-Facilitation CBFP	February 2025
Drafting of the Concept Note for the Congo Basin Pledge 2.0, Fair Deal 2.0 – Draft Proposal of the Joint Declaration of Intent by Donors and COMIFAC Member Countries for CBP 2.0	COMIFAC/Co Facilitation CBFP	February 2025
Bipartite technical level dialogue - Meeting (bipartite of experts from the two colleges: Donors and Regional)	Co-Facilitation and Co-Chairs of the CBFP colleges	March 2025

Launch of online consultations of the CBFP colleges on CBP 2.0: Concept note and draft joint declaration	Co-Facilitation and COMIFAC and Co-leaders of the donor college	March 2025
International Conference on Forest and Biodiversity Financing in Baku, Azerbaijan (FNUF- Secretariat) (CBP 2.0 Side-event)	COP 29 Presidency and COP 30 Presidency	March 2025
International Conference on the Congo Basin Pledge Post 2025, Management/Technical Level	United Kingdom	26th-28th March 2025
Meetings with donors, investors (several workshops organized alongside international events with investors and donors)	On the sidelines of international conferences	Starting from March 2025
Phase 2 focusing on the expanded consultation and development		
Review of the draft of the concept note and the Joint Intent Declaration CBP 2.0	COMIFAC and Co-Facilitation	April 2025
New consultations of the PFBC colleges on CBP 2.0	Co-Facilitation CBFP	April 2025
International Conference in Paris on Environmental Crime Side-event - 6th High-Level Political Dialogue between the Ministers of the CBFP Donor College and the Ministers of Central African countries on the post-CBP 1 period after 2025, CBP 2.0	France	17th-19th April 2025
20th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF 20) (Side-event CBP 2.0)	UNFF Secretariat	5th-9th May 2025
Standing-Up June – Nov 2025		
Council of Ministers of COMIFAC on CBP 2.0		
Institutional set-up, governance, fundraising, and monitoring and evaluation system... Review of the concept note and declaration of intent	Co-Facilitation and COMIFAC	June 2025
International Conference on Environmental Crime – In conjunction with the high-level meeting of the Regional College and/or COMIFAC Council of Ministers on CBP 2.0 and the Science-Policy Dialogue Interface	Co-Facilitation and COMIFAC Libreville, Gabon	18th-20th June 2025
World Conservation Congress - IUCN – Congo Basin Forest Days – Abu Dhabi (Pavilion + Side-event)	Co-Facilitation and COMIFAC Abu Dhabi	9th to 15th October 2025
Launch of CBP 2.0 during COP 30 – Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Round Table of Donors	Co-Facilitation and COMIFAC Co-	COP 30, 10th to 21st November 2025, Belém
Official handover between the incoming and outgoing Co-Facilitation of the CBFP	France - Gabon	November 2025, COP 30
CITES International Conference (Side-event CBP 2.0)	Co-Facilitation and COMIFAC Co-	Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 24th november - 05th december 2025