

Co-operation Framework for Partner Members of the Congo Basin Forests Partnership

With the signing of the treaty of the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC) and the adoption of the Sub Regional Convergence Plan, **the Heads of State and Government of the countries of the Congo Basin confirmed their commitment to the principles of conservation and sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems.**

In order to support this common vision of the Heads of State of Central Africa for the sustainable development of their forest ecosystems, in accordance with the recommendations of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, **members of the Congo Basin Forests Partnership (CBFP) are committed, on their part, to respect certain co-operation principles resulting from the Brazzaville Heads of State Summit:**

- 1. The objective of partners in the Congo Basin Forests Partnership initiative is the improvement of the effectiveness of technical and financial contributions** for the conservation, sustainable management of forest ecosystems, and alleviation of poverty in Central African countries.
- 2. They confirm their will to seek the best possible coordination with other technical and financial partners, members of the CBFP.** They have particularly committed themselves to see to the development of synergies between on-going or future projects and programs in order to translate into field actions the objectives of the Yaounde Declaration of 1999 on the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems of Central Africa, the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and COMIFAC's Convergence Plan.
- 3. In order to achieve this fundamental goal, the partners reaffirm their commitment to respect, in their future interventions, the following sustainability principles:**
 - **They will seek to simultaneously promote the wellbeing and the economic development of the populations** through the sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources and **the conservation of the exceptional biodiversity of these Central African forests** considered by all a common world heritage;
 - **They will work as much as possible to integrate their actions into national and regional programs of COMIFAC Member States** in order to ensure a better involvement of these States and an optimal perpetuity of the results;

- **They will get involved in the processes of institutional capacity building or strengthening of the various actors of the forest environment sector**, an essential precondition to real improvement of the effectiveness of actions of the Member States of COMIFAC;
- **They will pay particular attention to the increased involvement of the civil society and the private sector** in conservation and sustainable management actions of Central African forest ecosystems;
- **They will be mobilized to support the setting up of the national and regional consultation processes** in order to guarantee better transparency in the management of the forest environment sector in Central African countries, members of COMIFAC;

4. The members of the Congo Basin Forests Partnership commit themselves to support the effective implementation of the Convergence Plan of the Central Africa Forests Commission according to their respective resources or means and by mobilizing their own financial mechanisms.

5. Members of the CBFP commit themselves to share information (and data) for an effective coordination of their activities on the various local, national and regional levels.

6. They have decided to set up a Regional Advisory Committee for:

- ensuring better communication among the members of the CBFP;
- carrying out regular follow-up or monitoring of activities carried out within the CBFP;
- playing the regular role of adviser to the facilitator of the CBFP;

This regional Advisory Committee shall be comprised of six active members:

- A representative of the donor agencies other than the CBFP facilitator;
- A representative of the current Chairmanship of COMIFAC;
- A representative of international NGO members of the CBFP;
- A representative of development NGOs of the sub-region;
- A representative of the private sector members of the CBFP;
- A representative of International Organization members of the CBFP.

When the need arises, at the request of a member of one the various member groups, the latter may accompany the permanent representative to take an active part in the meeting.

The partner responsible for the facilitation of the Congo Basin Forests Partnership will co-animate this Regional Advisory Committee with the Co-facilitator.

7. Any member of the Congo Basin Forests Partnership, who wishes to reaffirm his will to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the natural resources of the Congo Basin, support the implementation of the Convergence Plan of COMIFAC, and contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the 1999 Yaounde Declaration and the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), is invited to approve this “partners’ co-operation framework”.