

## THE CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP - CBFP

### 18th Meeting of Parties

Brussels, Belgium, 27 - 28 November 2018

#### Briefing note

**Chair: Minister of State, François-Xavier de Donnea, CBFP Facilitator of the Kingdom of Belgium**

**Main theme: "Towards a sustainable future for Congo Basin forests, their inhabitants, flora and fauna"**

#### **1. 18th Meeting of Parties - Rallying stakeholders at the highest level**

The 18th Meeting of Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) will take place on 27 and 28 November 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. Held every year, the CBFP Meeting of Parties is the highest decision-making body of the CBFP and will bring together Heads of State, ministers and senior multilateral officials from around the world. Reflecting the diversity of stakeholders making up the CBFP's **107 members**, the meeting will also attract participants from international organizations, multilateral partners, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, youth, women, the media, academia and the scientific community, universities/scholars, foundations and the private sector.

The high-level Meeting of CBFP Parties will be organized by the CBFP Facilitation with the financial support of the Kingdom of Belgium, the European Union and Germany. It is expected to be a major event with close to 400 Participants coming together to celebrate past achievements, discuss and share views on a variety of topics relating to conservation of biodiversity, wildlife, the fight against climate change, sustainable management of Congo Basin forests as well as local development of the Congo Basin people.

The 18th Meeting of CBFP Parties thus offers a unique opportunity to share knowledge, ideas and solutions to some of the most pressing environmental issues in the Congo Basin with ramifications for the whole planet.

#### **2. Focus of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of CBFP Parties**

The Brussels meeting comes at a time when the Congo Basin forests are facing increasingly complex and severe challenges: The region is also operating a major "shift" in its economic model which is currently geared towards diversification driven by investments in Land use management including mining, the food and agricultural industry, infrastructure and other large scale projects, bolstered by a strong drive for medium term emergence which was virtually absent at the time of the launch of the CBFP. There is an urgent need to establish better linkages between sustainable

forest management strategies, conservation approaches and the region's economic development objectives. This in turn calls for better opportunities for dialogue and commitment around relevant issues, including cross-cutting issues and follow-up of shared viewpoints.

The CBFP can and should be able to play a key role in this respect. However, given the seriousness and complexity of the challenges facing forests and the significant increase in CBFP membership and topics to be discussed, there is a need to strengthen the CBFP's capacity to fulfil this role, especially at policy level and at the highest levels. Making progress in this area is a key objective of the Brussels meeting. Some key steps towards in this direction may include:

- Identifying and highlighting the added value of the Partnership;
- Explicitly attributing more credit and visibility to the CBFP as a conducive framework for more effective partner action;
- Taking increased common responsibility for the functioning and development of the CBFP and promoting ownership at the highest level to enhance the efficiency of contributions resulting from cooperation within the Partnership;
- Promoting significantly increased participation of private sector entities and the scientific community in CBFP cooperation, in order to strengthen the Partnership's capacity to address the current complex and cross-sectoral challenges facing Congo Basin forests;
- Harnessing the potential of the reinforced cooperation structures – the CBFP colleges and Council – to strengthen dialogue and exchanges within the Partnership and thus foster stronger convergence of collectively held views and concerted commitment around key issues and improving continuity and follow-up of CBFP partners' efforts.

To this end, the meeting will focus on fostering stronger and more relevant political leadership, to ensure better ownership of guidelines discussed within the CBFP and strengthen impacts on the ground, notably through the relevant regional institutions (COMIFAC and ECCAS) and member countries as well as CBFP parties as a whole. The 18th Meeting of CBFP Parties (MoP) in Brussels will serve as an opportunity to build on previous efforts and consolidate the gains in terms of strengthened CBFP governance and international partnerships abroad on behalf of the Congo Basin. It aims to promote dialogue and spur action towards more effective implementation and follow-up within the CBFP.

In this respect, a **draft Brussels Declaration** produced by the 18th CBFP Meeting of Parties will be submitted for review and subsequent adoption by all the CBFP Parties. The Brussels Declaration will pave the way for key measures to address climate change, the illegal exploitation of wildlife/biodiversity loss and community development in Central Africa. The Declaration will outline ambitions through a series of commitments made as a coalition of the CBFP parties. The Kingdom of Belgium CBFP Facilitation, COMIFAC and ECCAS tasked with ensuring follow-through on the part of the CBFP partners. The next few months after the MOP will be devoted to their implementation.

### **3. Agenda format**

The meeting agenda is built around:

#### **3.1 Meeting of CBFP colleges - 27 November from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

A first segment of the CBFP MOP 18 will be devoted to meetings of the CBFP colleges and the 5th Meeting of the CBFP Council. The seven colleges that make up the CBFP include:

- The CBFP Regional College - ECCAS, COMIFAC and Member States: Leaders: ECCAS, COMIFAC
- The CBFP Civil Society College: Leaders: CEFDHAC and Community Rights Network (CRN)
- the CBFP International NGO College: Leaders: AWF and WWF
- The CBFP Private sector College: Leaders: ATIBT, TFT
- The CBFP Donor College: Leaders: EU and US
- The CBFP Scientific and Academic College: Leaders: CIRAD and UCLA
- The CBFP Multilateral College: Leaders: FAO, GVTC (alternate - UNESCO)

#### **3.2 Technical segment of the 18th CBFP MOP**

A technical segment will be held either alongside and/or as a slot inserted in some CBFP colleges' meetings. The technical segment will be built around four side events, which will cover the following areas:

- Private sector: Timber, Agro-industry, mining "Private sector side event"
- Scientific community: Research and Training Institutions "Scientists' side event"
- Wildlife: Preparations for the Ndjamena High-level Meeting
- Climate Change Side Event

#### **3.3 Welcome Ceremony**

A welcome cocktail will be offered to kick-off the CBFP plenary session on the evening of 27 November.

### **4. Policy segment - CBFP Plenary Meeting - 28 November**

The policy segment of the 18th CBFP MOP will revolve around the CBFP plenary session which will include an opening session and introductory statements, feedback from the deliberations of the streams and side events, high-level political dialogue, a high-level interactive panel and a closing session.

#### **4.1 Opening Ceremony and high-level introductory statements**

The opening ceremony will include high-level introductory statements with parties participating at the highest level: Heads of State or Government, Ministers, Presidents of multilateral banks and international organizations. Each party represented at the highest level will be given a chance to take the floor on a "first come, first served" basis.

## **4.2 Discussion panel of stream leaders and side events**

The opening ceremony will be followed by a discussion panel of stream leaders as well as side events during which thematic topics will be discussed. The panel and side events will follow the drift of other meetings held in the Central African sub-region ahead of the Meeting of Parties. Below are the topics to be discussed:

### **4.2.1 Stream 1: Forest Governance and Land Use**

Key Question:

- What are the relevant strategies for ensuring economic valuing and equitable distribution of wood resources (taxation and community forestry) while regulating the growth of domestic and sub-regional wood product markets of Central Africa?
- How do we ensure genuine data coordination and management, notably through OFAC - the technical arm of COMIFAC?

**Leaders: FAO and COMIFAC Governance Working group**

Co-Leaders: WRI, OFAC, CIDT, FLAG (To be confirmed)

Partners tasked with drafting the summary document: CIDT – University of Wolverhampton, WRI, OFAC (To be confirmed)

For more information on Stream 1, contact Emmanuel Heuse: [emmanuel.heuse@agreco.be](mailto:emmanuel.heuse@agreco.be)

### **4.2.2 Stream 2: Biodiversity and wildlife**

Key Question:

- How do we ensure high-level engagement in the design and operationalization of relevant cross-border strategies to address large scale poaching and security issues in and around protected areas (including criminal networks organized around poaching) and in vulnerable areas of the Congo Basin?
- How do we mainstream biodiversity into the economic planning models of Congo Basin countries while promoting the development of people living around protected natural areas?

**Leader: AWF and GTBAC**

Co-leaders for Question 1: WCS, TRAFFIC, IUCN, WWF (To be confirmed)

Partners tasked with drafting the summary document:

For Question 1: AWF, Traffic, IUCN, WWF (To be confirmed)

For information on Stream 2, contact: Maxime Nzita ([maxime.nzita@pfbc-cbfp.org](mailto:maxime.nzita@pfbc-cbfp.org))

### **4.2.3 Stream 3: Climate Change - Adaptation and Mitigation**

Key Question:

- How do we develop a concerted, relevant and effective approach to finalizing the NDCs of COMIFAC countries on the one hand (follow-up to the Paris Agreement), and securing access to climate finance and their commitment to forest landscape restoration (the Bonn Challenge); and sustainable peatland conservation on the other hand?

**Leader: COMIFAC/ Climate Working Group**

Co-leaders: Belgium, Norway, CAFI, EU, USFS, CIFOR, ITTA, WHRC, FOKABs, ATIBT, REFACOF, GEF, FAO/UNREDD, IUCN, EFI, CIRAD, TI, AFD, GIZ, ADB, SMAC, GEF, CBFF, WWF, Rainforest Alliance, Tropenbos International (To be confirmed).

Partners tasked with drafting the summary document: CIFOR/ITTA, with the support of Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC) and FOKABs (To be confirmed)

For information on Stream 3, contact Dany Pokem: [dany.pokem@pfb-cbfp.org](mailto:dany.pokem@pfb-cbfp.org)

### **4.3 Lunch and high-level policy dialogue**

Following the feedback from streams session, the Heads of Delegation of the Parties will have lunch, provided courtesy of the Kingdom of Belgium. During lunch, we will have an opportunity to hear from a Senior Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium and discuss the Brussels Declaration. Shortly thereafter, there will be a multi-stakeholder high-level policy dialogue session involving the Ministers of the COMIFAC- ECCAS countries and the main partners representing the CBFP stakeholder group.

We will be circulating the draft Brussels Declaration as soon as possible. The updated version will be adopted at the plenary session of the Meeting of Parties.

### **4.5 Closing Ceremony**

Lastly, the presentation/adoption of the Brussels Declaration will come to close the 18th Meeting of CBFP Parties. This will be followed by the usual press meeting held by the Facilitation of the Kingdom of Belgium and a few officials.

## **5. Exhibition, side events and networking**

The meeting will be held for two days to allow time for networking and side events hosted by CBFP partners. A CBFP partners' exhibition area will be set up with enough space to accommodate a dozen exhibitors. Side/related events also be held on the margins of the official agenda. The side events will help to showcase groundbreaking projects with tangible impacts as evidence of practical local and regional solutions to challenges facing Central Africa. Such projects will have to be scaled up and replicated and serve as a source of inspiration for people across the region. They reflect our commitment to protecting the Congo Basin's future.

## **6. Further information**

Throughout the meeting, members of the partnership will be provided with appropriate forums for dialogue.

Please find enclosed with this information letter, a draft copy of the official meeting agenda.

The detailed agenda of the 18th Meeting of Parties as well as practical and logistical information, will be posted on the CBFP website ([http://pfbc\\_cbf.org/accueil.html](http://pfbc_cbf.org/accueil.html)) as soon as they are finalized.

### **A word to the editors:**

#### **THE CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP**

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) was launched by former United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 in Johannesburg. It is a multi-stakeholder partnership that allows member organizations to cooperate on a voluntary basis. The CBFP currently comprises 107 members, including 10 Central African countries and close to a hundred partners concerned with the Congo Basin forest ecosystems (ECCAS, COMIFAC, partner countries, the Congo Basin civil society, international NGOs, multilateral organizations, research and training institutions and private sector actors). It is the most comprehensive regional platform dedicated to the protection and sustainable management of Congo Basin forests.

By signing the Treaty on the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and adopting COMIFAC's sub-regional Convergence Plan in 2005 in Brazzaville, the Heads of State and Government of the Congo Basin countries reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems, the fundamental rights of their peoples to rely on forest resources as well as their understanding of the need to balance development and conservation needs within the framework of international cooperation.

Cooperation within the CBFP aims to support this shared vision of the Central African Heads of State, notably by enhancing the effectiveness of the measures taken, including technical and financial support, to promote conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of forest ecosystems, the fight against climate change and poverty reduction in Central African countries in line with the COMIFAC Convergence Plan.

#### **Meeting of CBFP Parties**

The Meeting of CBFP Parties is the "General Assembly" of the Partnership. It is held once a year in one of the COMIFAC Member States and registration is open to all CBFP stakeholders. The Meeting of CBFP Parties is a unique event in the region, bringing together a wide range of different stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international levels to discuss and exchange views on a host of key topics relating to the protection and sustainable management of Congo Basin forests.

**In line with its roadmap, the CBFP Facilitation of the Kingdom of Belgium** will be hosting its first Meeting of CBFP Parties, the 18<sup>th</sup> of its kind. It comes after the 17<sup>th</sup> which was held in Douala, Cameroon in October 2017, the 16<sup>th</sup> which took place in Kigali, Rwanda, the 14<sup>th</sup>, in Brazzaville in October 2014, the 13<sup>th</sup> in Libreville in December 2013), the 12<sup>th</sup> in Douala in March 2012, the **11<sup>th</sup>** which served as the 4<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting of the CBFP (N'djamena September 2012), the **10<sup>th</sup>** (Douala, 29 February to 2 March 2012), the **9<sup>th</sup>** (May 2011 in Bujumbura, Burundi). The **8<sup>th</sup>** CCR with Germany handing a trophy to Canada (Kinshasa, September 2010), **the 7<sup>th</sup>** meeting which served as the 3<sup>rd</sup> plenary meeting of the CBFP and took place in Yaoundé on 11 and 12 November 2009; **the 6<sup>th</sup>** (Douala, Cameroon, May 2009); **the 5<sup>th</sup>** (Brazzaville, Congo, October 2008) and the **4<sup>th</sup>** in Bangui, CAR (March 2008); the **3<sup>rd</sup>** CCR took place in Paris in October 2007, the **2<sup>nd</sup>** Meeting of Partners which served as the **2<sup>nd</sup>** plenary meeting was held in Paris in June 2006; **the 1<sup>st</sup>** CCR took place in Brazzaville (February 2005). It is important to note here however that the first formal meeting of the CBFP took place in Paris in January 2003 following its launch in September 2002 in Johannesburg (South Africa)

All the **major conclusions and recommendations** from these meetings are available for download on the CBFP web site [www.pfbc-cbfp.org](http://www.pfbc-cbfp.org) or on the web site of the Meeting of CBFP Partners: <http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/accueil.html>

### **The CBFP Facilitation of the Kingdom of Belgium during the period 2018-2019**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of CBFP Parties 2018 will be the first Meeting of Parties organized during the period from 2018 to 2019, during the Kingdom of Belgium's tenure at the helm of the Partnership through its role as CBFP Facilitator. The Facilitation's mission features three components: (1) Facilitating consultations (internal communication, rallying partners around joint strategies, information and data sharing), (2) raising the CBFP's profile (external communication, attracting new members, seeking new funding sources) and (3) Facilitating coordination of activities (beginning with their follow-up).

The CBFP was initially facilitated by the United States from January 2003- December 2004, then France from January 2005 - October 2007, Germany in October 2007- September 2010 and Canada from September 2010 to December 12, the United States from May 2013 to December 2015, the European Union from January 2017- December 2018.

For more information on the CBFP Facilitation roadmap, please click the link below:



[Facilitation belge du PFBC - Feuille de route-FR.pdf \(58.0 Ko\)](#)

Please download the press release below: Communiqué de presse - 1er mars 2018 - La Belgique reprend la facilitation du PFBC.pdf (86.8 Ko)

For more information on the CBFP's governance structures, please read:



[Questions-Reponses-College-conseil-PFBC-FR.pdf \(75.1 Ko\)](#)