

Conference

Sustainable forest management in Central Africa

Yesterday, today and tomorrow

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Conference

Sustainable forest management in Central Africa

Yesterday, today and tomorrow

22 - 23 May 2013

Yaoundé, Cameroon

Program

Schedule of Events

22 May 2013

Time	Program
8 am – 10 am	Registration / Coffee / Networking <i>Bouma Foyer</i>
10 am – 10.55 am	Opening Plenary <i>Bouma A & B</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome address by Richard Eba'a Atyi, Regional Coordinator for Central Africa, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) Speech by Raymond Mbitikon, Executive Secretary, Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC) Keynote Address by Peter Holmgren, Director General, CIFOR Keynote address by Ngole Philip Ngwese, Minister for Forests and Wildlife, Cameroon
10.55 am – 11.30 am	Coffee break <i>Bouma Foyer</i>
11.30 am – 12 pm	Policy Keynote Addresses <i>Bouma A & B</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Nasi, Director, CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry Patrice Bigombe Logo, Independent Observer
12 pm – 1 pm	High-Level Panel <i>Bouma A & B</i> Legal and institutional reforms in the forestry sector of Central Africa since the Rio Summit: Successes, challenges and future perspectives
1 pm – 2 pm	Lunch <i>Bouma Balcony</i>
2 pm – 3.30 pm	Parallel Discussion Forums <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forests, food and nutritional security <i>Bouma A & B</i> Response to climate change in Central Africa: Realities and challenges <i>Bouma C</i> Multiple-use management of forested landscapes <i>Bete A, B & C</i>
3.30 pm – 4 pm	Coffee Break <i>Bouma Balcony</i>
4 pm – 5 pm	High-Level Panel <i>Bouma A & B</i> Financing climate change and REDD+: How to help Central Africa capture the potential
5 pm – 5.30 pm	Closing Plenary <i>Bouma A & B</i> Presentation of the key messages of the day

23 May 2013

Time	Program
9 am – 10 am	Science Keynote Addresses <i>Bouma A & B</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Laura Snook, Programme Leader, Forest Genetic Resources Bioersity International2. Sylvie Gourlet Fleury, Senior Scientist, CIRAD
10 am – 10.30 am	Coffee Break <i>Bouma Foyer</i>
10.30 am – 12 pm	Parallel Discussion Forums <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. A review of the role of regional institutions and international instruments in forest management of the Congo Basin <i>Bouma A & B</i>5. The Congo Basin forests facing agro-industrial and mining expansion <i>Bouma C</i>6. Market-based instruments for sustainable forest management in Central Africa <i>Bete A, B & C</i>
12 pm – 1 pm	Special Session <i>Bouma A & B</i> <p>Launching of <i>The Context of REDD+ in the Democratic Republic of Congo and The Cameroon REDD Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Country Profile</i></p>
1 pm – 2.30 pm	Lunch <i>Bouma Balcony</i>
2.30 pm – 3.30 pm	High-Level Panel <i>Bouma A & B</i> <p>Financing sustainable forest management in Central Africa</p>
3.30 pm – 4 pm	Coffee Break <i>Bouma Foyer</i>
4 pm – 4.30 pm	Special Session <i>Bouma A & B</i> <p>Presentation by the Cameroon Ministry of Forests and Wildlife</p>
4.30 pm – 5.00 pm	Closing ceremony <i>Bouma A & B</i>



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High-Level Panels

Legal and institutional reforms in the forestry sector of Central Africa since the Rio Summit: Successes, challenges and future perspectives

22 May 2013
12 pm – 1 pm
Bouma A & B

The emergence of the paradigm of sustainable forest management in the 1990s led central African countries to set new objectives in their forest management with innovative instruments and institutions. Because of this, new institutions have been created with new forest laws enacted. However, the critical issues of mismanagement and poor governance in the forest sector remain a real concern. Often, different sectorial laws are made independently and, sometimes, contradict one another. Currently, there are ongoing debates about the robustness of the existing laws in achieving the expected goals in the evolving context of forest management.

Key questions the panel will address

1. Were the existing central African countries' forest laws appropriately designed to meet the objectives of a sustainable forest management?
2. How do we deal with the constantly evolving context of forest law reforms in central African countries?
3. What are the challenges facing effective and efficient implementation of forest laws in Central Africa?

Speakers

1. Ngole Philip Ngwese, Cameroon Minister of Forestry and Wildlife
2. Henri Djombo, Minister of Sustainable Development, Forestry Economy and Environment, Republic of Congo
3. Simon Rietbergen, Senior Forestry Specialist, World Bank
4. Michel Pré, Cooperation Française (To Be Confirmed)
5. Ambassador Raul Mateus Paula, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Cameroon (To Be Confirmed)
6. Moderator: Andrew Wardell, Research Director, CIFOR

Financing climate change and REDD+: How to help Central Africa capture the potential

22 May 2013
4 pm – 5 pm
Bouma A & B

Climate-related finance has not made many inroads in Central Africa and most countries have been unable to access funds either through the CDM or through the Adaptation Fund to support climate resilient development. The Congo Basin countries account for only 10% of global deforestation

emissions, but as conflict recedes in the region, deforestation rates are expected to climb. African countries in the center of the continent are beginning to see the REDD+ as an opportunity to access funds for the forestry sector to promote sustainable forest management and avoid the destruction of the resource that other regions have suffered.

Countries such as Indonesia and Brazil have been successful in attracting funds to reduce their deforestation and forest degradation. In Africa, Tanzania has been supported by the Norwegians. The international community has expressed the willingness to support countries in the region through the REDD+ framework. The Congo Basin offers the opportunity to see whether REDD+ can be an effective mechanism for conserving forests in countries with high forest cover and low deforestation rates.

This panel discussion will focus on understanding the constraints to Congo Basin countries in accessing the opportunities that REDD+ offers and experts will be asked to engage with the audience to find opportunities and solutions to move the region forward. Panelists and the audience will be invited to reflect upon the opportunities for countries of Central Africa and the financial needs compared to the availability of resources of these countries implement mitigation and adaptation activities.

Key questions the panel will address

1. What are the windows of opportunity for the countries of Central Africa?
2. What are the institutional needs of countries in the region to absorb and use climate change funds productively?
3. What other constraints do countries of the region face in getting and using the climate change funds productively?
4. Are there regional institutions through which the climate fund could be channeled for more effective use?

Speakers

1. Hele Pierre, Minister of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development, Cameroon
2. Kirsten Hegener, GIZ
3. Leo Peskett, Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK
4. Simon Rietbergen, Senior Forestry Specialist, World Bank
5. Moderator: Emmanuel Mbede, Université de Yaoundé

Financing sustainable forest management in Central Africa

23 May 2013
2.30 pm – 3.30 pm
Bouma A & B

In recent years, logging companies have gone through several economic crises, whilst efforts to promote sustainable forest management has continued to benefit from substantial public sector funding from many bilateral and multilateral donors. Climate change (notably REDD+), forest governance and large-scale land acquisitions continue to receive much attention from international funders and have progressively replaced topics such as community forestry or non-timber forest products at the top of their agendas.

The objective of this session is to characterize and understand the evolution of funding dedicated to the sustainable management of tropical forests, especially in Central Africa.

Key questions the panel will address

1. If the total amount spent on sustainable forest management seems to increase, is there however a change in the sources of funding (national and international public funds, self-funded companies, specific support of banking, laundered money, etc)? Are there still 'historical' donors and who are the newcomers?
2. Which are the arrangements for donor intervention? Are there new relationships between donors and clients? Do complexifying procedures of financing mean greater efficiency in the use of funds?
3. Which are the most easily funded SFM issues today and for the next decade? Which important issues remain under-funded and why?
4. Is a "REDD washing" of forest projects happening?
5. What have recent evaluations learned about the effectiveness and efficiency of donor financing for sustainable forest management? And, how are these findings affecting donors's perceptions about risk and aid allocations to the sector?
6. How does research on forest issues help (or not) contribute to forge or implement new funding schemes?

Speakers

1. Christophe du Castel, AFD
2. Esben Brandi, Investment Manager, International Woodland Company, Denmark
3. Collins Ahadome, Officer-in-Charge, Operations Division, International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), Japan
4. Timothé Fomete, Director, Fondation TNS
5. Lauren Kelly, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank
6. Gérard Daraspe, KfW
7. Moderator: Peter Holmgren, Director General, CIFOR

Issues Marketplace

22 – 23 May 2013
Upper Lobby

The Issues Marketplace consists of simultaneous, interactive presentations by selected focal points on proposed main themes. Participants will be encouraged to enter the Issues Marketplace and gather around speakers discussing issues under each of the themes. Initiatives of a similar format at other events have been called 'speakers' corner' or 'four corners'. The Issues Marketplace is similar in format, but on a larger scale with a dynamic market atmosphere.

Discussion forums

Discussion forum 1. Forests, food and nutritional security

22 May 2013
2 pm – 3.30 pm
Bouma A & B

Too often food security is measured simply in terms of food energy production, overlooking that by definition, food security includes secure access to the foods needed for a nutritionally balanced diet. In fact, the FAO has estimated that there are 900 million food insecure (or undernourished) people in the world. Food and nutritional security is an increasingly important aspect of international forest research because the majority of the world's remaining biodiversity exists outside of protected areas; often in complex, multi-functional landscapes and because large numbers of the world's food insecure people live in, and adjacent to, tropical forests. It is time to acknowledge the essential contributions that forests make to the sustainability of nutritionally balanced food and agriculture systems of the world. This symposium will discuss the role of forests in the contribution to food security and nutrition with a focus on West and Central Africa.

Key questions the panel will address

1. What role can innovative agriculture in the Congo Basin play on global food security?
2. Is the potential contribution of non timber forest products to food security well known?
3. What impact can climate change have on food security in the context of low technology?

Speakers

1. Keynote speaker: Lazare Essimi Menye, Cameroon Minister of Agriculture
2. Respondent: Zac Tchoundje, ICRAF
3. Respondent: Stefan Hauser, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
4. Respondent: Sven Walter, The Global Mechanism, Programme Coordinator
5. Respondent: Bronwen Powell, CIFOR
6. Respondent: FAO representative (To Be Confirmed)

Discussion forum 2. Response to climate change in Central Africa: Realities and challenges

22 May 2013
2 pm – 3.30 pm
Bouma C

The Congo Basin is recognised for its role in biodiversity conservation, as a provider of logging and usefulness to local communities and economies of Central Africa. With climate becoming more important internationally and in the Congo Basin forests, REDD+ has emerged as part of the solution and as a way for countries of the region to contribute to the UNFCCC. The link between

forest and adaptation is not well recognised and promoted. Efforts have been made to mainstream climate change within conservation agendas. Some pilot activities have been initiated in the field of adaptation and mitigation. This forum will revisit the regional responses in the climate change agenda and reflect on the activities that take advantage of previous efforts in forest management. Additionally, it will concentrate on future directions while considering the interest of forest communities. It will consist of a presentation, debate and poster sessions.

Key questions the panel will address

1. How is climate change affecting Central Africa and what are the responses to this in the forest sector?
2. How to make sure that responses are centered around the need of forest communities and states of Central Africa?
3. How can the region take advantage of carbon finance opportunities to support low emission sustainable development in rural areas, reducing poverty and increasing resilience of communities to climate shocks?

Speakers

1. Moderator: Martin Tadoum, Deputy Executive Secretary, COMIFAC
2. Speaker: Carol Colfer, Purdue University
3. Speaker: GIZ representative (To Be Confirmed)
4. Speaker: Okenye Mambo, GIZ
5. Speaker: Ken Creighton, Senior Global Climate Change Specialist/Regional Advisor, USAID/CARPE
6. Speaker: Joseph Amougou, Climate Change Focal Point for Cameroon
7. Speaker: Didier Simon, FFEM

Discussion forum 3. Multiple-use management of forested landscapes

22 May 2013
2 pm – 3.30 pm
Bete A, B & C

Historically, only “formal” and mainly state-owned units of forested land have been considered for active management in the Congo Basin. More recently, alongside those formal units, rural economies have been thriving on informal harvesting and exchanges of timber, non-timber forest products, wildlife and minerals. With economies and population rapidly growing and conflicts over alternative resources and land uses on the rise, it is becoming more evident that forested landscapes can only be effectively and more sustainably managed if i) their formal and informal spaces are considered as one, notably in state-led, long-term planning and development exercises, and ii) their multiple use potentials are assessed, accounted and planned for. This forum will discuss the tenet that only by allowing and managing a spatial cohabitation of interests through the multiple use management of forested landscapes, the countries of the Congo Basin will reach their planned developmental objectives.

Key questions the panel will address

1. What conditions are necessary to facilitate the shift from sustainable timber production to responsible multiple use forest management?
2. How to adapt the logging concession model to the multiple use regimes? What are the alternative options?
3. How best to adapt formal forest management models (concession, community forests...) to include and secure informal forest resources sectors?

Speakers

1. Keynote speaker: Robert Nasi, CIFOR
2. Respondent: Ralph Ridder, ATIBT
3. Respondent: Ousseynou Ndoye, FAO
4. Respondent: Alain Billand, CIRAD
5. Moderator: Jean-Claude Nguinguiri, FAO

Discussion forum 4. A review of the role of regional institutions and international instruments in forest management of the Congo Basin

23 May 2013
10.30 am – 12 pm
Bouma A & B

Legal, policy and institutional frameworks are important factors in setting the stage for sustainable forest management. Under this perspective, positive changes in legal and policy frameworks are evident in the Central Africa region. In fact, signs indicate political commitments towards sustainable forest management in the majority of ten Member States of COMIFAC, notably with the creation of many regional institutions in charge of forests (COMIFAC, CBF, CEFDHAC, REPAR, RAPAC, etc). Twenty years after the UNCED Rio Summit, most countries in Central Africa have enacted new and more progressive forest policies and legislations. However, critical issues concerning mismanagement and poor governance in the forest sector remain real concerns. For example, different sectorial laws are built independently and sometimes contradict while ongoing debates question the robustness of existing laws. Therefore, much remains to be done to incorporate climate change, illegal practices, land use competition and planning and monitoring in the legal provisions. More international coordination is needed, including with relevant institutions in major importing countries such as China.

Key questions the panel will address

1. What are the main international / regional institutions in forest management that have nourished policies and legal frameworks in Congo Basin countries?
2. How have these impacts materialised in legal provisions and institutional settings?
3. How can COMIFAC countries overcome the current forest challenges and shortcomings in their policies and legal framework?
4. How can regional institutions connect better with their counterparts in large timber markets, such as China, to promote better forest management in the Congo Basin?

Speakers

1. Keynote speaker: Patrice Bigombe Logo, Independent Observer
2. Respondent: Raymond Mbitikon, Executive Secretary of COMIFAC
3. Respondent: Donatien Nzala, Director General of Forest Economics, Ministry of Forest Economics, DRC
4. Respondent: Samuel Makon, GIZ
5. Respondent: Robinson Djeukam, Former Director, Global Witness, Cameroon
6. Moderator: Prudence Galega, Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Cameroon

Discussion forum 5. The Congo Basin forests facing agro-industrial and mining expansion

23 May 2013
10.30 am – 12 pm
Bouma C

For the last 20 years, most forest administrations of the Congo Basin countries have been trying to secure the remaining forests by setting fixed boundaries to a “permanent forest domain” or by gazettement protected areas. This land use and planning policy seemed successful for a while. But for the last 4-5 years, an increasing number of agro-industrial companies from all over the world have stated their interest in acquiring large land tracts in the Congo Basin. Oil palm and rubber are the major commodities to be developed in the humid forest part of Central Africa. For Cameroon alone, a total of 1.5 million ha has been demanded for oil palm and rubber expansion. The same trend can be observed in Gabon and Congo, and to a lesser extent in DRC. At the same time, large and small scale mining are rapidly expanding in forest areas often encroaching protected areas. While most governments are eager to attract international investors to develop the still marginalized forested areas of their country, conservation NGOs fear that this development will be carried out at the expense of the biodiversity rich rainforests of the Congo Basin, while indigenist NGOs claim that in the process forest people will be dispossessed of their lands and forests, and left without any resource. The objective of this discussion forum is to reconcile the positions of those who want to conserve with those who want to convert, to find a win-win solution for conservation and development.

Three key questions the panel will address:

1. How can agro-industrial and mining development be carried out without destroying biodiversity rich primary forests?
2. How can local people and smallholders be involved in agro-industrial development and benefit from mining?
3. How to plan and ensure an environmentally and smallholder friendly development of agro-industries and mining in the Congo Basin countries?

Speakers: (the speaker list may change)

1. Keynote speaker: Robert Leprohon, forest zoning and planning specialist
2. Respondent (conservation): Rold Dieter Sprung, Conservation Director, WWF, Cameroon
3. Respondent (conservation): Samuel Nguiffo, Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED)
4. Respondent (development): Culbertson Enow Etta, Head of Research and Plantation, PAMOL Lobe
5. Respondent (development) Arend van der Goes, Consultant Environmental and Social Development
6. Respondent (development): Léonard Mpouma, Union of oil palm smallholders of Cameroon (UNEXPALM)
7. Moderator: Clémentine Ananga Messina, Deputy Minister Delegate for Agriculture (MINADER)
8. Rapporteur: Jaff Napoleon Bamenjo, Coordinator, RELUFA

Discussion forum 6. Market-based instruments for sustainable forest management in Central Africa

23 May 2013
10.30 am – 12 pm
Bete A, B & C

Several goods extracted from tropical forests have been traded on international markets for ages. Today the final consumers of these commodities, the corporations involved in their transformation and retailing, and civil society show a growing concern for sustainability. Similarly, managing tropical forests must now integrate the maintenance of environmental services that provides important benefits at the global scale. Market-based instruments (MBI) were presented as a promising approach to strengthen sustainability concerns into the management of tropical forest.

In parallel, the Congo basin countries have pursued more traditional command and control policies, such as harvest regulations, to protect and restore their forests and have emphasized greater enforcement of, and compliance with existing regulations. The promotion of market-based instruments in such a context has been little documented in Central Africa, especially regarding their actual impacts on forest resources and on livelihoods.

Key questions the panel will address

1. Actual impacts of market-based instruments, with a focus on forest cover and local livelihoods;
2. Are MBI and command-and-control approaches antagonists, competitive or complementary?
3. Is there an influence of the implementation of MBI on forest governance, either from the companies or from the States?

Speakers

1. Speaker on certification of forest management: Jervais Nkoulou, Rainforest Alliance
2. Speaker on REDD mechanisms: Blese Kalame Fobissie, WWF
3. Speaker on biodiversity offsets: Bakary Kone, National Coordinator, Wetlands International, Mali
4. Speaker on Market-Based Instruments (MBI) and informal sectors: Stoyan Teney, World Bank
5. Moderator: Denis Koulagna, Secretary-General, Ministry of Forests and Wildlife, Cameroon
6. Rapporteur: Hervé Maidou, COMIFAC-World Bank

Special Sessions

Launching of *The Context of REDD+ in the Democratic Republic of Congo* and *The Cameroon REDD Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Country Profile*

23 May 2013
12 pm – 1 pm
Bouma A & B

CIFOR, through the GCS component/Module 3, initiated several countries profiles (Bolivia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Brazil, Peru, and Cameroon) to understand the context in which the MRV-REDD+ system differs between each country. These studies allowed CIFOR to understand the national context in which the MRV-REDD+ system will be settled in tropical forest countries. The comparisons will allow CIFOR to draw lessons on MRV capacities.

The MRV countries profile of Cameroon was developed with ONFI (Office National de Forêt International) in 2010. The launching of the profile will provide an opportunity to present the findings to participants, who will be able to field questions to one of the consultants involved in the research.

Understanding the process can help stakeholders in the region to appreciate some of the challenges associated with the development and functioning of MRV at the national level. It can also offer a possibility on how to carry out such capacity assessment on a regular basis in Cameroon or in the region.

Key questions the panel will address

1. What are the current and future drivers of deforestation and degradation in Cameroon?
2. What is the linkage between current development objectives of the country, and future degradation and deforestation in Cameroon?
3. What are the institutional aspects governing MRV activities in Cameroon?

Speakers

1. Moderator: Denis Sonwa, Scientist CIFOR (or another person To Be Confirmed)
2. Main presenter: Pascal Cuny (ONFI) brief presentation on the country profile
3. Open discussion: chaired by a Moderator

Presentation by the Cameroon Ministry of Forests and Wildlife

23 May 2013
4 pm – 4.30 pm
Bouma A & B