

Sustainable Forest Management in Central Africa Yesterday, today and tomorrow

A science and policy conference

Yaoundé, Cameroon

22-23 May 2013



Celebrating 20 years of
forestry research



Photo by Ollivier Girard/ CIFOR

Ngole Philip Ngwese, Cameroon's Minister for Forestry and Wildlife, gives his keynote address at CIFOR's conference "Sustainable forest management in Central Africa" in Yaounde, Cameroon, 22 - 23 May 2013.

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des Ecosystèmes du Bassin du Congo
www.pacebco-ceeac.org



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Table of contents

1	Impacts by the numbers	1
2	Background	1
3	Participants and speakers	2
3.1	Events	4
4	Outreach and communications	4
4.1	Conference website	5
4.2	Press releases	5
4.3	Press conferences and interviews	5
4.4	Blogging	6
4.5	Twitter and Facebook	8
4.6	Videos, photos and slides	8
4.7	Other outreach materials	9
4.8	Media training workshop	9
4.9	Post-conference survey	10
	Annex A: Blog stories produced for the Central Africa conference	11
	Annex B: Declaration on the Future of Central Africa's Forests, 23 May 2013	14
	Annex C: Summary of results from survey of conference participants	16

1 Impacts by the numbers

614	Number of participants at the conference
98%	Number of surveyed participants who rated the conference as “successful” or “very successful”
42,400	Views of CIFOR Forests News Blog in May (<i>according to Google Analytics</i>)
26	Number of blog posts written about the themes of the conference — before, after and during the event — posted at blog.cifor.org/yaounde and blog.cifor.org/congo
15,245 (English); 2,189 (French)	Number of visits to the conference website, cifor.org/yaounde (<i>according to Google Analytics</i>)
156,300	Number of Twitter users reached by the #CIFOR20 social media campaign
34	Number of journalists present at the two-day conference
12,616	Number of views/downloads of PowerPoint presentations from the conference that were posted online by CIFOR
18,940	Number of CIFOR books, brochures and other literature distributed at the conference
850	Number of CIFOR research DVDs distributed at the conference
80	Number of Twitter “tweets” sent during the two-day conference
7,000	Combined views of the 480 photos and videos taken before and during the conference, posted at blog.cifor.org/yaounde and blog.cifor.org/congo

2 Background

Home to 40 million people across six countries, the tropical forests of Central Africa face mounting pressures from population growth, agriculture, conflict, and global trade. The conference “Sustainable Forest Management in Central Africa: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” sought to convene stakeholders in science and policy for an open discussion of the most critical issues and challenges facing the region’s forests.

As the name of the conference indicates, a nod to the past was in order: Panelists and presenters hailed the progress made in forestry policy in the region since the Rio Summit in 1992. Before Rio, laws and policies did not provide for the role of local communities or women in forest management and access; forest concession plans were almost unheard of; the importance of forests in food security for rural people was largely unexamined.

The future of forest management in Central Africa was the main focus, however, and panels explored the future of everything from regional climate finance to hydroelectric potential to palm oil policy. The conference culminated in the creation and presentation of a declaration — www.cifor.org/fileadmin/declaration_en.pdf, full text in English in Annex B — that called for six concrete steps to improve forest management in the region.

CIFOR, itself a product of the Rio Summit, has built a strong presence in Africa, particularly in Central Africa. Bringing together the region's leading policy makers, donors, media, researchers and forest experts, the conference provided a forum for open discussion of the most critical issues and challenges facing the sustainable management of Central Africa's forests, the biodiversity they embrace and the people who depend on them.

3 Participants and speakers

The conference, held at the Hilton Hotel in Yaoundé, Cameroon, drew 614 participants. Of those, 18 were senior government officials, including two government Ministers (Forests and Wildlife as well as Agriculture and Rural Development), as well as numerous deputy ministers and the executive secretary of the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC). It is noteworthy that the senior government officials and policy makers took an active part in the two-day event, attending and moderating discussion forums and high-level panels.

Final registration details

Sector	Number	%
Donor	13	2.1
Government	17	2.8
NGO	65	10.6
INGO	15	2.5
Media	34	5.5
University	67	10.9
Private sector	5	0.8
Researchers	21	3.4
Speakers	54	8.8
Interns/postgraduate students in forestry and related studies	20	3.3
Other participants	303	49.3
TOTAL	614	100



"Forest management in central Africa has come a long way but there's still a long way to go."

Richard Eba'a Atyi,
Regional Coordinator
for Central Africa, CIFOR

The conference attracted several high-level speakers from within and beyond Central Africa.

Richard Eba'a Atyi, CIFOR's Regional Coordinator for Central Africa, welcomed participants and set the tone for the conference by taking the audience through the evolution of the concept of sustainable forest management in the region.

Raymond Mbitikon, Executive Secretary of COMIFAC, highlighted the important contributions that the outcomes of the conference could make to the deliberations at the upcoming conference of Heads of States of Central African countries.

Peter Holmgren, CIFOR's Director General, decried the absence of forestry in the top priorities of the international development agenda and encouraged participants to take up the challenge of ensuring its presence, as forestry has a political relevance.

Ngole Philip Ngwese, Cameroon's Minister of Forests and Wildlife, highlighted the giant strides made by his country and others in the region, in relation to sustainable forest management. He also enjoined all the governments of Central African countries to work together to combat drivers of deforestation.

In all, more than 50 speakers and panelists took part in the two-day conference. They included:

- **Lazare Esimi Menye**, Cameroon Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development
- **Denis Koulagna**, Secretary General, Ministry of Forests and Wildlife, Cameroon
- **Joseph Amougou**, Climate Change Focal Point for Cameroon
- **Bakary Kone**, Director, Wetlands International, Mali
- **Zac Tchoundje**, Regional Director for West and Central Africa, World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
- **Esben Brandi**, Investment Manager, International Woodland Company, Denmark
- **Patrice Bigombe Logo**, Cameroon Independent Forest Observatory
- **Clémentine Ananga Messina**, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Cameroon
- **Donatien Nzala**, Director of Forestry, Republic of Congo
- **Robert Nasi**, Director, CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry
- **Sylvie Gourlet Fleury**, Senior Scientist, Centre de Coopération internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD)
- **Simon Rietbergen**, Senior Forestry Specialist, World Bank
- **Raymond Mbitikon**, Executive Secretary, Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC)
- **Nicolas Berlanga Martinez**, Head of Operations, European Union Delegation to Cameroon
- **Laura Snook**, Program Leader, Forest Genetic Resources, Bioversity International, Italy
- **Leo Peskett**, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK
- **Christophe du Castel**, Agence Française du Développement (AFD)
- **Ken Creighton**, Senior Global Climate Change Specialist/Regional Advisor, USAID
- **Kirsten Hegener**, Director, GIZ



"Forestry contributes to broader development goals. As scientists, we should always look out for the science-policy link."

Peter Holmgren,
Director General, CIFOR



"In Central Africa, our forests are our lifeline, and we have no choice but to work together to protect them and ensure their sustainability, or else the consequences will be too much for us to bear."

Ngole Philip Ngwese,
Cameroon Minister for
Forests and Wildlife

3.1 Events

The first day featured an opening plenary session and a welcome address, followed by policy keynote addresses, one on the evolution of the management of Congo Basin forest resources and the other on the merits and challenges of participatory forest management in Central Africa. High-level panel discussions on implementation of forest laws in the region preceded parallel discussion forums on such topics as the role of forests in food security and climate change, as well as the shift to multiple-use forest management.



“The guidelines for sustainable forest management in central Africa do not include how to regenerate trees and maintain seed trees. These issues must be considered and included in the guidelines. To protect forests, we need to protect trees.”

Laura Snook,
Biodiversity International

Borrowing a popular feature from other CIFOR events, the conference featured a semi-structured networking and discussion session called an Issues Marketplace, which sought to increase the depth of the conference’s discussions through simultaneous, interactive presentations on research themes by various organizations in attendance, and to enable focused networking.

The second day commenced with science keynote addresses and further parallel discussions on specific issues facing the Congo Basin forest, including the role of regional institutions in forest management; mining and agro-industrial expansion; and the impacts of market-based management instruments. A special session followed, to launch *The Context of REDD+ in the Democratic Republic of Congo* and *The Cameroon REDD Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Country Profile*.

The final session of the conference addressed one of the main challenges for forest management in the region: financing. A high-level panel discussion, “Financing sustainable forest management in Central Africa,” sought to characterize and understand the evolution of funding dedicated to the sustainable management of tropical forests, especially in Central Africa.

The conference ended with the reading of the aforementioned declaration, and closing remarks by Ngole Philip Ngwese, Cameroon’s Minister of Forests and Wildlife, who thanked CIFOR and its partners for organizing the conference and said that the presence and active participation of top policy makers spoke to the willingness of Central African countries to work to ensure the sustainability of their forests.

4 Outreach and communications

For this conference, CIFOR developed a comprehensive outreach and communications strategy to ensure momentum for the event and to raise broader awareness of the Congo Basin forests.

Prior to the conference, CIFOR built a special webpage for news related to the conference. CIFOR’s team of blog writers and editors wrote articles; apart from writers mobilized within and outside CIFOR, two senior CIFOR scientists wrote blogs on the state of forest management in the region during the past 20 years.

CIFOR also organized a media-training workshop before the conference for 20 journalists from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Gabon, to build their capacity to write informed, well-considered articles on the conference and to enable stronger media coverage of regional forest news in the future.

4.1 Conference website

A website dedicated to the conference, including logistical details, registration and related media, was developed and launched in full English and French (www.blog.cifor.org/yaounde). From its launch until the end of June 2013, the English-language version was visited more than 15,000 times and the French version more than 2,000 times.

4.2 Press releases

Two media advisories in English and French promoting the conference were disseminated before the event to more than 2,700 journalists worldwide. The media advisories can be found at <http://bit.ly/17mS5PA> and <http://bit.ly/18eqQsg>.

4.3 Press conferences and interviews

CIFOR arranged dozens of one-on-one and group interviews with speakers and others before, during and after the conference.

Prior to the conference, CIFOR scientists were interviewed on international, regional and national media networks. Richard Eba'a Atyi, CIFOR Regional Coordinator for Central Africa, appeared on five major programs of national and regional coverage on Cameroonian radio and television networks to talk about the conference and its significance

The screenshot shows the CIFOR website for the 20th anniversary conference. The header includes the CIFOR logo and navigation links: HOME, CAREERS, PRINT PAGE, and FONT. The main navigation bar lists: Forest research, Online library, Events, Media | multimedia, Donors and partners, About us, and Links. The main content area features a search bar, a sidebar with 'Anniversary events' (Sustainable forest management in Central Africa) and a 'Download the Schedule of Events app' section. The main content area highlights the event 'Sustainable forest management in Central Africa' with a date of 20-21 May 2013. Below this, there is a photo gallery and a video gallery. The footer contains the CIFOR logo and a brief description of the organization's mission.

for the region. CIFOR scientists were also interviewed on international networks such as Voice of America and the BBC.

CIFOR organized a press conference the day before the conference, which attracted 18 journalists from the region. This provided CIFOR scientists with the opportunity to interact with the media and further explain the importance of the event.

During the two-day conference, a total of 34 journalists were present. Apart from covering the conference, they interviewed four CIFOR scientists for special features.

4.4 Blogging

CIFOR's outreach team produced an intensive, bilingual social media campaign that included blogging, webcasting and video interviews. Particular focus was placed on expanding CIFOR's French social media sites (including the launch of a French language blog, [Nouvelles des forêts](#)) to better engage with Central African stakeholders.

CIFOR dispatched a former BBC journalist and a CGIAR communications specialist to cover the event. In all, CIFOR's team produced 15 blog stories in English — all of which were translated into French — based on the conference. A full set of clippings of all the stories is included in Annex A.

Blog stories were published on a special landing page of CIFOR's Forests News blog in English (blog.cifor.org/yaounde) and French (blog.cifor.org/fr/yaounde), and the site received more than 42,400 pageviews in May – on par with the readership normally received during CIFOR's largest outreach efforts at the UN Climate Change conference. Central Africa blog stories were also syndicated to the Reuters AlertNet site, which receives 12 million visitors annually and is often a source of content for well-known African aggregator sites such as AllAfrica.com.

Issues covered include:

- [EU timber regulations could bankrupt Central Africa's small scale loggers](#)
- [CIFOR's Central Africa coordinator, Richard Eba'a Atyi reflects on how management of Central Africa's forests has changed since 1992](#)
- [How a radio program is helping Congo's farmers adapt to climate change](#)
- [Can REDD+ drive change in the DR Congo?](#)
- [How Chinese investment in Africa has led to problems of planning, control and coordination](#)
- [What policymakers should know about the Congo's forests](#)

The stories were also republished on other websites, including Nature News Blog, Voice of America, BBC Africa, Mongabay, World Bank blog, EurekAlert!, AllAfrica.com and aggregated on Google News – ensuring the articles reached hundreds of thousands more readers globally.



The future of Central Africa's forests

Feature language:



Climate change in the Congo Basin will be different from the rest of Africa, forecasts show

New climate projections for the Congo Basin have renewed the call for informed and collaborative responses to climate change in Central Africa.



[Read more](#)



From words to impacts: The research behind Cameroon's sustainable palm oil policy

They had hoped to incite debate. Instead, the authors of a report on oil palm development in Cameroon discovered that they had spurred a national strategy.



The invisible extinction of forest genetic resources: Can trees survive?

Trees are the oldest and largest beings in the world, living for hundreds, even thousands, of years. But the secret to their longevity – their genetic diversity – is under threat, experts say.



Q&A: What's behind the lag in climate-related finance in Central Africa?

Most Central African countries have been unable to access climate funds—and, according to experts, donors are "skeptical" about the countries' ability to meet requirements on accounting, internal control and external oversight.



Farmers need stronger rights and incentives to preserve trees on farms in Africa: study

Despite reforms designed to promote community-managed forests in Africa, local people often have little incentive to preserve them, a new study shows.



Harnessing the Congo's rivers to save its forests

It's not the timber trade, agricultural expansion or mining that currently poses the greatest threat to tropical forests in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but the demand for energy —



Burkina Faso's forests



[More photos](#)

Presentations



Screenshot of special landing page for CIFOR Forests blog coverage from Central Africa conference

4.5 Twitter and Facebook

CIFOR made heavy use of social media sites Twitter and Facebook, expanding its French-language Twitter and Facebook feeds to better target francophone African stakeholders. Compared with the previous year, followers of CIFOR's French Facebook and Twitter feeds have almost doubled.

More than 80 tweets were sent out in English and French using the conference hashtag #CIFOR20 (the official hashtag for CIFOR's 20th anniversary events), reaching an estimated 156,300 people worldwide. Notable retweets of CIFOR's posts were done by the World Bank (French), Central Africa Press Agency (Agence de Presse Centrafricaine), EuropeAid and the African Development Bank. Facebook posts reached more than 40,000 users.

4.6 Videos, photos and slides

CIFOR engaged a professional videographer to record the sessions and conduct one-on-one interviews with speakers. The team recorded, edited, produced and uploaded 15 videos to YouTube within two weeks after the event; these videos, ranging in length from 2 minutes to 40 minutes, have amassed 360 views among them.



Photo taken from YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EWn4u-HCqY>

CIFOR also contracted a professional photographer to document the event and provide photos for media and organizations participating in the conference. This collection of 259 photos — found at <http://bit.ly/1bMxZz7> — has been viewed and/or downloaded more than 9,100 times.

During the plenary sessions and interludes, CIFOR presented features from a major multimedia package, “Congo Basin: The State of the Forest.” This package, produced by CIFOR to highlight the state of the region’s forests, was released in the lead-up to the conference, and which can be found on its own dedicated webpage — <http://blog.cifor.org/congo/>. The package encompasses 11 blog stories (in English and French), nine videos and more than 200 photos about CIFOR research in the Congo Basin forests and about the lives and livelihoods of the people who depend on these forests. The gallery of 201 photos has been viewed or downloaded more than 1,200 times; the videos have garnered more than 4,600 views among them.

Twenty-three PowerPoint presentations delivered at the conference were uploaded to SlideShare — <http://www.slideshare.net/CIFOR/tag/yaounde-conference>. The popular demand for online PowerPoint presentations remains strong, as these 23 slideshows, collectively, have been viewed or downloaded more than 12,600 times.

4.7 Other outreach materials

CIFOR distributed more than 21,000 items at the conference, including 6,190 books and 12,750 briefs, brochures and flyers. CIFOR also disseminated 850 copies of a special multilingual DVD produced especially for the conference. The DVDs contained a wealth of CIFOR publications and other media, in English and French, about CIFOR’s research. The DVDs sought to provide a facsimile to CIFOR’s website, as an entry point to CIFOR research, to those without an Internet connection.

CIFOR also distributed more than 1,300 pieces of merchandise.

4.8 Media training workshop

CIFOR, together with partner organizations, organized a media training session, which took place at the beginning and end of the conference. On 21 May, 20 journalists from around Central Africa attended a one-day training session. After the conference, on 24 May, they were taken to the field for a firsthand look at charcoal making, a leading driver of deforestation in the region.

The one-day training session followed a small workshop format on CIFOR campus in Yaoundé, where scientists and experts on sustainable forest management briefed the 20 journalists on topics such as the importance of research in climate change, the effects of the illegal wildlife trade, and how to communicate forest science.

4.9 Post-conference survey

After the conference, CIFOR surveyed attendees on their impressions of the conference; 73 people responded. More than 98% of them rated the conference as “successful” or “very successful”; none rated it unsuccessful. Respondents felt that the most important components of the conference — which they rated “very worthwhile” — were the high-level discussion panels (57%) and the parallel discussion forums (56%).

Respondents indicated that the impact of the conference would be felt long after it ended: To the question, “How has the conference helped you?” 85% of respondents reported that they would “Use information gathered,” and 72% said they would “Follow up with contacts made at the event.” Full survey results are in Annex C.

Annex A: Blog stories produced for the Central Africa conference

English	
From words to impacts: The research behind Cameroon's sustainable palm oil policy	http://bit.ly/15boLbW
The invisible extinction of forest genetic resources: Can trees survive?	http://bit.ly/18tHplF
Q&A: What's behind the lag in climate-related finance in Central Africa?	http://bit.ly/19cITi1
Farmers need stronger rights and incentives to preserve trees on farms in Africa: study	http://bit.ly/18Q6Fnk
Harnessing the Congo's rivers to save its forests	http://bit.ly/11Jlcr7
Q&A: The challenges of monitoring a forest three times as large as France	http://bit.ly/13MXK0L
Searching for nutritional security in the forests of Central Africa	http://bit.ly/12CpdnK
The missing element: Water left out of climate action in the Congo Basin	http://bit.ly/18Q6YhV
Managing environment & social effects of large versus small-scale investments in Congo	http://bit.ly/14cqDIT
Liquid cash or solid investments? Trees offer new approach for Cameroon's farmers	http://bit.ly/13SZ14E
Reducing deforestation emissions in Cameroon demands variety of expertise	http://bit.ly/16xx2tV
Can biodiversity and logging coexist in the Congo?	http://bit.ly/13SZpjO
Mangroves under threat as Cameroonians move toward coast	http://bit.ly/11s5p1k
Beyond carbon storage: The Congo Basin forest as rainmaker	http://bit.ly/10piWvo
From forest harvest to bubbling businesses in the Congo Basin	http://bit.ly/12CpTJL
Can REDD+ drive changes in DR Congo?	http://bit.ly/12CpXcu
Study: Why planting more trees is always a good idea	http://bit.ly/11GKBba
The Congo Basin Forests: What policymakers should know	http://bit.ly/UnMO1K
Climate change in the Congo Basin will be different from the rest of Africa, forecasts show	http://bit.ly/13T2gcn
For DR Congo's forests, legislation is only part of the solution	http://bit.ly/15pWmkm
US, EU timber import regulations could bankrupt Central Africa's small-scale loggers: experts	http://bit.ly/17fqvYP
Forest management in Central Africa: We've come a long way but there's still a long way to go	http://bit.ly/11T3gyD
Could radio help mitigate climate change in the Congo Basin?	http://bit.ly/14ctCKU
Q+A: Male-female lifestyles should factor into Congo climate programs	http://bit.ly/11iPxSd

Français	
Le changement climatique dans le Bassin du Congo n'est pas le même que dans le reste de l'Afrique	http://bit.ly/10pjl0V
Incitations et droits solides pour que les agriculteurs préservent leurs arbres en Afrique	http://bit.ly/1bnwSWk
A la recherche de sécurité alimentaire dans les forêts d'Afrique Centrale	http://bit.ly/1ak8kja
Maîtriser les rivières du Congo pour sauver ses forêts	http://bit.ly/11iOba4
Interview: défis liés à la surveillance d'une forêt trois fois plus grande que la France	http://bit.ly/11s6hDaq
L'élément manquant: l'eau est l'oubliée des actions pour le climat dans le bassin du Congo	http://bit.ly/13MYVNx
Les arbres : argent liquide ou investissement solide? Idée nouvelle pour les agriculteurs camerounais	http://bit.ly/14FamI8
Est-ce que la biodiversité et l'abattage de bois peuvent coexister au Congo?	http://bit.ly/10pjT73
Réduire les émissions liées à la déforestation au Cameroun exige des expertises variées: étude	http://bit.ly/16xyU5Y
La pluie, autre bienfait des forêts du bassin du Congo après le stockage du carbone	http://bit.ly/11JJbb2
Les mangroves sont menacées alors que les Camerounais se rapprochent des côtes	http://bit.ly/17fpeAS
Les communautés ne sont pas des entreprises: nouvelle approche pour les forêts communautaires	http://bit.ly/13T1iNf
Relier le local au global: la REDD + est un puzzle à plusieurs niveaux	http://bit.ly/14cslhM
REDD+ sans regrets: l'ancienne directrice générale du CIFOR parle des perspectives d'avenir	http://bit.ly/15buVZA
L'«Aide-ification» de la REDD+: comment a-t-elle changé et pourquoi est-ce important	http://bit.ly/13T1snX
Des forêts aux commerces fleurissants dans le Bassin du Congo	http://bit.ly/125NoEM
Étude : Pourquoi planter plus d'arbres est toujours une bonne idée	http://bit.ly/16aBaIF
La nouvelle approche pour déterminer les niveaux d'émissions de référence est une première étape cruciale pour la REDD +	http://bit.ly/17S1Okt
Un régime foncier pour quoi? Reconnaître les droits communautaires est essentiel pour la légitimité de REDD +	http://bit.ly/11iP7v5
Les forêts de RDC: la législation n'est qu'une partie de la solution	http://bit.ly/16aC1zP
Est-ce que la radio peut aider à atténuer le changement climatique dans le Bassin du Congo?	http://bit.ly/17fr1G8

Français	
Gestion des forêts en Afrique Centrale : nous avons bien avancé mais la route est encore longue	http://bit.ly/11JK9nu
Règles américaines et européennes: cause de faillite pour des petits bûcherons d'Afrique Centrale ?	http://bit.ly/11FJW3V
Interview: les modes de vie féminin/masculin devraient influencer les programmes climatiques au Congo	http://bit.ly/17KIW6y
La REDD+ peut-elle être moteur de changement en RDC?	http://bit.ly/14FbJqd
REDD+ : l'idée est reconnue mais sa mise en place se heurte à des défis selon une étude mondiale	http://bit.ly/11FK5o2

Annex B: Declaration on the Future of Central Africa's Forests, 23 May 2013

Declaration on the Future of Central Africa's Forests, Conference on Sustainable Forest Management in Central Africa, 22-23 May 2013: Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The Center for International Forestry Research and the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife of the government of Cameroon have invited a group of forest scientists, academics, government representatives, and leaders from the private sector and civil society to gather in Yaoundé, Cameroon, for a Conference on Sustainable Forest Management in Central Africa. In this meeting, held 22-23 May 2013, we have discussed developments, challenges and priorities for science and policy in sustainable management of the forests of the Congo Basin. We hereby:

RECOGNIZE that:

1. Central Africa is home to the second-largest continuous block of rainforest on the planet, and that the forest cover remains relatively well-preserved;
2. these forests will continue to play a critical role across numerous sectors, including livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, food and nutrition security, and carbon sequestration and the creation of a Green Economy;
3. although annual deforestation rates have been comparatively low, there are strong indications that Central African forests are at a critical turning point toward increased land-use investments;
4. population growth, agriculture, agro-industry, and resource extraction threaten to increase the rate of deforestation in this area if not sustainably managed;
5. the sustainable utilization and economic development of forest resources, and the role of forests in the wider landscape, have become integral to the sustainable development of the region;
6. given the increase in demand for livelihoods and the growing effects of climate change, maintaining forest cover and sustainable landscapes in the region will be a major challenge in the coming decades.

REAFFIRM:

our commitment to advancing the extensive progress that has been made in the research, development, promotion and execution of sustainable forest management practices in Central Africa since the Rio summit of 1992.

CONCUR that:

1. the forests of the Congo Basin will play a key role in broader development goals across the landscape, as well as in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts;
2. Central Africa's forests can be effectively and sustainably managed only through proper assessment and consideration of the full range of their uses and potential benefits;
3. critical issues of unsustainable management and poor governance of forests remain real concerns despite the many positive changes in political commitments and policy frameworks in the Central African region;
4. land acquisition for extractive and agricultural industries could adversely affect ecosystem services and rural people in the Congo Basin's forests if not properly managed;
5. increasing societal demands for non-timber forest products has illustrated the need to consider new and varied strategies, and markets, in the forestry policies of Central African countries; and
6. the concept of sustainable forest management must be flexible, to fit society's needs and to account for informal sectors, and should be based on clear, achievable objectives.

Therefore, by this declaration, we CALL FOR:

1. a concerted effort to focus on sustainable forest management practices in Central Africa where resources and sectors are not managed in silos but are viewed as a "landscape" of intertwined parts;
2. intensified high-level collaboration and communication among scientists, governments, and the public and private sectors, in raising awareness of, and developing evidence-based policies that add value to, timber and non-timber forest products, particularly the many and important foods and ecosystem services that are derived from Central Africa's forests;
3. new or improved national and regional laws and policies, based on the best available evidence, that are sufficiently flexible to balance development goals, forest conservation goals, and the needs and rights of all people (with special consideration to indigenous and gender issues);
4. greater efforts to formalize the informal sectors associated with Central Africa's forests, particularly in artisanal logging and community forestry, establishing regulatory frameworks that provide them the role that reflects their importance in national economies;
5. a redoubled campaign to strengthen the capacity of Central African institutions, governance and policies – on all levels – to mainstream climate-change issues into development and conservation strategies, and to meet international standards for accessing climate financing; and
6. stronger monitoring and evaluation of Central African forest management outcomes that are based on objectives that are achievable and that have been established through consultation with all stakeholders.

Annex C: Summary of results from survey of conference participants

Central Africa Conference Participant Survey / Sondage des participants de la Conférence d'Afrique centrale



1. Please provide your name, organization, country of residence and email address. / S'il vous plaît fournir votre nom, organisation, pays de résidence et votre adresse courriel.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Name / Nom:	100.0%	73
Organization / Organisation:	100.0%	73
Country / Pays:	100.0%	73
Email Address / Adresse courriel :	100.0%	73
	answered question	73
	skipped question	0

2. Which of the following best describes your institutional affiliation? / Lequel des énoncés suivants décrit le mieux votre affiliation institutionnelle?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Governmental / Gouvernemental	11.0%	8
Intergovernmental / Intergouvernemental	4.1%	3
Non-governmental / Non gouvernemental	39.7%	29
Donor / Donateur	1.4%	1
University / Université	23.3%	17
Community / Communauté	2.7%	2
Private sector / Secteur privé	4.1%	3
Media / Médias	2.7%	2
Other (please specify) / Autre (précisez)	11.0%	8
	answered question	73
	skipped question	0

3. How would you rate this conference? / Comment évalueriez-vous cette conférence?

	Very successful / Très réussi	Successful / Réussi	Not successful / N'a pas réussi	Very unsuccessful / L'échec	Rating Average	Rating Count
	41.7% (30)	58.3% (42)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.58	72
					answered question	72
					skipped question	1

4. What did you value most about the Central Africa conference? Please rate the following. / Qu'avez-vous aimé le plus au sujet de la conférence de l'Afrique centrale? S'il vous plaît évaluer ce qui suit.

	Very worthwhile / Très utile	Somewhat worthwhile / Utile	Neutral / Neutre	Of minimal worth / De la valeur minimale	Not at all worthwhile / Pas du tout utile	N/A	Rating Average	Rating Count
Opening plenary / Séance inaugurale	44.9% (31)	44.9% (31)	8.7% (6)	1.4% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.67	69
Policy keynotes / Discours principaux sur la politique à mener	51.5% (35)	42.6% (29)	4.4% (3)	1.5% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.56	68
Science keynotes / Discours principaux sur les questions scientifiques	44.3% (31)	52.9% (37)	1.4% (1)	1.4% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.60	70
Discussion Forums / Forums de discussion	56.3% (40)	35.2% (25)	7.0% (5)	1.4% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.54	71
Issues Marketplace / Marché des thèmes	30.0% (21)	41.4% (29)	21.4% (15)	4.3% (3)	0.0% (0)	2.9% (2)	2.00	70
High-level panels / Panels de haut niveau	57.1% (40)	27.1% (19)	11.4% (8)	4.3% (3)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	1.63	70
Special sessions / Séances spéciales	33.3% (23)	37.7% (26)	21.7% (15)	1.4% (1)	2.9% (2)	2.9% (2)	2.00	69
Closing plenary / Séance finale	35.2% (25)	38.0% (27)	21.1% (15)	1.4% (1)	0.0% (0)	4.2% (3)	1.88	71
Exhibition booths / Expositions	44.9% (31)	40.6% (28)	13.0% (9)	0.0% (0)	1.4% (1)	0.0% (0)	1.72	69
Other / Autre	11.1% (4)	13.9% (5)	44.4% (16)	2.8% (1)	5.6% (2)	22.2% (8)	2.71	36
answered question								73
skipped question								0

5. How valuable did you find the Discussion Forums at the conference? Please rate the following. / Quelle était la valeur des forums de discussion à la conférence? S'il vous plaît évaluer ce qui suit.

	Very worthwhile / Très utile	Somewhat worthwhile / Utile	Neutral / Neutre	Of minimal worth / De la valeur minimale	Not at all worthwhile / Pas du tout utile	N/A	Rating Average	Rating Count
1. Forests, food and nutritional security / Forêts, sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle	55.4% (36)	32.3% (21)	6.2% (4)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	6.2% (4)	1.48	65
2. Response to climate change in Central Africa: Realities and challenges / Répondre au changement climatique en Afrique centrale : réalités et enjeux	53.8% (35)	35.4% (23)	4.6% (3)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	6.2% (4)	1.48	65
3. Multiple-use management of forested landscapes / Gestion polyvalente des paysages forestiers	38.8% (26)	41.8% (28)	13.4% (9)	1.5% (1)	0.0% (0)	4.5% (3)	1.77	67
4. A review of the role of regional institutions and international instruments in forest management of the Congo Basin / Examen du rôle des institutions régionales et des instruments internationaux dans la gestion des forêts du Congo	43.6% (24)	29.1% (16)	16.4% (9)	1.8% (1)	0.0% (0)	9.1% (5)	1.74	55
5. The Congo Basin forests facing agro-industrial and mining expansion / Les forêts bassin du Congo face à l'expansion agro-industrielle et minière	61.5% (40)	27.7% (18)	4.6% (3)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	6.2% (4)	1.39	65
6. Market-based instruments for sustainable forest management in Central Africa / Les instruments axés sur les marchés appliqués à la gestion durable des forêts en Afrique centrale	36.9% (24)	40.0% (26)	13.8% (9)	1.5% (1)	0.0% (0)	7.7% (5)	1.78	65
answered question								72
skipped question								1

6. What do you think was the influence of the conference? / Que pensez-vous a été l'influence de la conférence?

	Very important / Très important	Important / Important	Not important / Pas important	No influence / Aucune influence	Rating Average	Rating Count
Informing the formulation of new government policies / Informer la formulation de nouvelles politiques gouvernementales	61.8% (42)	36.8% (25)	1.5% (1)	0.0% (0)	1.40	68
Building personal or institutional capacity / Renforcer la capacité personnelle ou institutionnelle	58.2% (39)	34.3% (23)	4.5% (3)	3.0% (2)	1.52	67
Providing information to feed into policy talks / Fournir de l'information pour alimenter les discussions politiques	54.3% (38)	34.3% (24)	8.6% (6)	2.9% (2)	1.60	70
Keeping personally informed of developments / Garder personnellement informé de l'évolution	40.3% (27)	49.3% (33)	9.0% (6)	1.5% (1)	1.72	67
Facilitating the development of new partnerships / Faciliter le développement de nouveaux partenariats	54.4% (37)	35.3% (24)	8.8% (6)	1.5% (1)	1.57	68
Spreading new or improved forest management practices / Répandre des pratiques nouvelles ou améliorées de gestion des forêts	54.4% (37)	36.8% (25)	4.4% (3)	4.4% (3)	1.59	68
Networking in general / Réseaux en général	43.9% (29)	42.4% (28)	12.1% (8)	1.5% (1)	1.71	66
Finding new funding sources or opportunities / Trouver de nouvelles sources de financement ou d'opportunités	42.6% (29)	39.7% (27)	16.2% (11)	1.5% (1)	1.76	68
Allowing the initiation of new projects / Permettant l'initiation de nouveaux projets	36.9% (24)	41.5% (27)	18.5% (12)	3.1% (2)	1.88	65
Suggesting changes to research objectives, methods or approaches / Suggérer des modifications aux objectifs de la recherche, des méthodes ou des approches	40.3% (27)	43.3% (29)	14.9% (10)	1.5% (1)	1.78	67
Disseminating information from one's own organization / Diffuser l'information à partir de sa propre organisation	48.5% (32)	42.4% (28)	6.1% (4)	3.0% (2)	1.64	66

Other (please specify) / Autre (précisez)

2

answered question

73

skipped question

0

7. How has the conference helped you? (choose all that apply and elaborate below) / Comment la conférence vous a aidé? (choisir tout ce qui s'applique et décrire en plus détail ci-dessous)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Used information gathered / Utilisé les informations recueillies		84.9%	62
Followed up contacts made at the event / Contacts effectués lors de l'événement		72.6%	53
Developed new projects / Développé de nouveaux projets		32.9%	24
Produced publications / Produit des publications		27.4%	20
Made policy recommendations or changes / Recommandations ou changements de politique		34.2%	25
Increased networks / Augmentation des réseaux		54.8%	40
	Please elaborate / Décrire en plus détail:		40
		answered question	73
		skipped question	0

8. Please share any other comments. / S'il vous plaît partagez vos observations.

	Response Count
	47
	answered question
	47
	skipped question
	26



**RESEARCH
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