

How we work as CBFP

The CBFP does not play a direct part in program implementation or financing. It does not have a secretariat or permanent staff. It works as a **transmission belt between donors and implementing agencies** and provides a **forum for dialogue** between its partners.

The form of governance chosen by the CBFP is **steering through “facilitation”**, provided by one of its members for a set period of time. The role of the facilitation is to organize dialogue and promote cooperation between the partners, to set up a work program based on the guidelines established in the COMIFAC Convergence Plan, and to represent the partnership externally.

CBFP Facilitation Phase 2008-2009

After the United States of America (2003-2004) and France (2005-2007), facilitation is now provided by Germany for the period 2008 to 2009. Based on the results of a French-German evaluation of the partnership conducted in 2007, the German facilitation committed to enhance CBFP member activities in the following four **strategic priority areas**:

- Strengthening of COMIFAC institutions and the CBFP
- Improvement of forest governance and framework conditions
- Implementation of the Convergence Plan and major international environmental conventions and agreements
- Innovative financial mechanisms to support funding of Convergence Plan measures

In continuation of the efforts accomplished by previous facilitations, Germany endeavours to further strengthen CBFP's coordination potential and to fully develop its role as a forum for dialogue for all stakeholders in the forest sector.

Find out more about the CBFP: www.cbfp.org

CBFP partners

The partnership brings together the 10 member states of the COMIFAC, donor agencies, NGOs, scientific institutions and private sector representatives. It currently has **48 members** who share the commitment to enhance communication and coordination among the members and to create synergies between their respective projects, programs and policies, in support of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan.

■ Governments

Belgium, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, European Commission, France, Gabon, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, United States of America

■ International Organizations

African Development Bank, COMIFAC, FAO, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, GRASP, International Tropical Timber Organisation, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, World Bank

■ NGOs and research groups

African Wildlife Foundation, Centre for International Forestry Research, Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement, Conservation International, Forest Trends, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Jane Goodall Institute, Wildlife Conservation Society, Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV), World Resources Institute, WWF International

■ Private sector

American Forest and Paper Organisation, Interafrican Association of Forest Industries, International Technical Association for Tropical Timber, Precious Woods Holding, Society of American Foresters



CBFP Facilitation 2008-2009

Imprint

Responsible: Dr. Hans Schipulle, BMZ
CBFP Facilitator 2008-2009
Text: Herbert Christ, GTZ
Coordinator CBFP Facilitation
Barbara Fröde-Thierfelder,
ECO Consulting Group
Photos: CBFP (1), H. Christ (GTZ, 5), WRI (1)
Print: Druckhaus Waitkewitsch, Alsfeld

Eschborn 12/2008



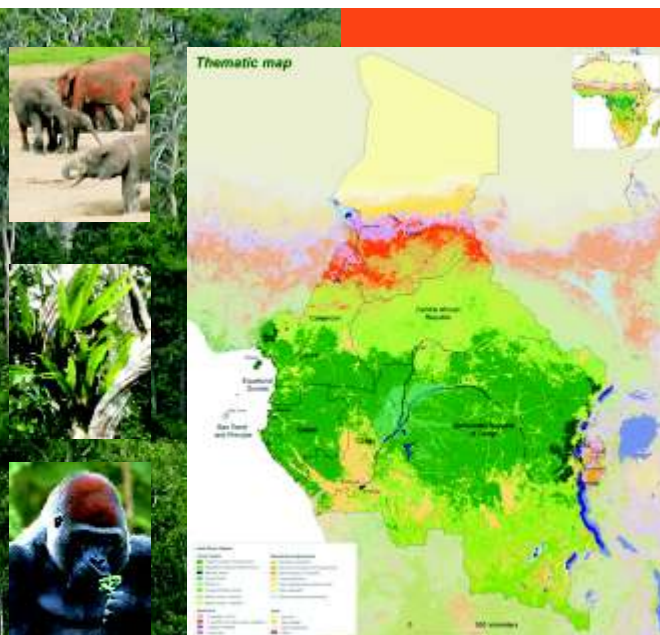
Congo Basin Forest Partnership

The Congo Basin Forest Ecosystems

The forest ecosystems of the Congo basin span across much of Central Africa, from the Atlantic Ocean's Gulf of Guinea to the mountains of the Albertine Rift in the East. With over 180 million hectares they constitute the second largest area of contiguous moist tropical forest left in the world and represent approximately **one fifth of the world's remaining closed canopy tropical forest**.

The Congo basin forests do not only play a critical role for **global biodiversity conservation** (they are home to three of the world's four species of great apes), they also **provide vital regional and global ecological services** as a carbon sink and catchment basin.

Even though much of the forest areas currently remain intact, the regional forest ecosystems continue to be at risk from a **complex set of important threats** – such as unsustainable timber and mineral extraction, bush meat trade and weak governance – that **call for concerted global action**.



The Congo Basin Forest Partnership

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership was launched at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg as a non-binding partnership registered with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. As a “Type II” partnership, it represents a **voluntary multi-stakeholder initiative** contributing to the **implementation of an intergovernmental commitment** (Yaoundé Declaration).

The CBFP works in close relationship with the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), the regional body in charge of forest and environmental policy, coordination and harmonisation, with the **objective to promote the conservation and sustainable management of the Congo basin's forest ecosystems**.

CBFP members support the implementation of COMIFAC's regional Convergence Plan and the 1999 Yaoundé Declaration by

- protecting the region's biodiversity,
- promoting good forest governance and
- improving the population's living standards.

In the spirit of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which is mirrored in CBFP's cooperation framework, the **objective of the partnership is to raise the effectiveness** of the partners' programs and initiatives through improved communication and collaboration.

A prime example of the partnership's collaboration efforts is the **joint research and publication of “The Congo Basin Forests 2006”**. This is the first comprehensive report on the state of the Congo basin forests, published in collaboration with COMIFAC.

CBFP aims to inform partners about the programs and activities currently financed and implemented by its members, through meetings, working groups, email communication and the partnership's website www.cbfp.org.

The Central African Forests Commission

The legal basis for the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) was laid in 1999 with the **Yaoundé Declaration**, concluded during the Summit meeting of the Heads of State of Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Central African Republic.



The Declaration recognizes the **protection of the Congo basin ecosystems as an integral component of the development process** and reaffirms the signatories' commitment to work together to promote the sustainable use of the Congo basin forest ecosystems.

The conference of ministers in charge of the forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC), later on established as the “Central African Forests Commission”, was mandated to coordinate the monitoring of activities aimed at implementing the Declaration in the region.

The **COMIFAC Convergence Plan**, adopted by the Heads of State of Central Africa in 2005, defines a common regional intervention strategy for the countries of the subregion and their international development partners.

The ten strategic axes of the Convergence Plan:

- (1) harmonizing forest policy and taxation
- (2) resource knowledge and inventory
- (3) ecosystem management
- (4) biodiversity conservation
- (5) sustainable use of forest resources
- (6) alternative income generation
- (7) capacity development and training
- (8) research
- (9) innovative financing mechanisms
- (10) regional cooperation and partnerships

