



# Outcomes

## 13<sup>th</sup> Congo Basin Forest Partnership Meeting

Libreville, Gabon  
December 2-4, 2013

United States Facilitation Team

# CBFP Partners

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- ◎ **Governments:**

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

- ◎ **International Organizations:**

AfDB, COMIFAC, FAO, GRASP, ITTO, UNCCD Global Mechanism, UNCDB Secretariat, UNCMS Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, World Bank

- ◎ **Academic, Civil Society, NGOs and Research Institutions:**

African Model Forest Network, African Wildlife Foundation, BDA, CIRAD, Conservation International, CIFOR, CUSO International, Forest Trends, FSC, ICRAF, IRD, IUCN, Jane Goodall Institute, LAGA & Eagle Network, The Nature Conservancy, PEFC, SNV, WCS, WWF, WRI, TRAFFIC, Rainforest Alliance, VSO, UCLA

- ◎ **Private Sector:**

ATIBT, IFIA, Precious Woods Holding, Society of American Foresters, Alpi Group, Wijma Cameroon S.A, The Forest Trust (TFT), CIB-OLAM, FORM International

## U.S. Facilitation **OBJECTIVES**



- Clear and concerted African leadership.
- Action to address critical threats to biodiversity and forests.
- Full participation in efforts to adapt to and combat climate change.
- Effective institutions, regulatory regimes, and governance to address forests and wildlife.



# ***Outcome 1: Highlighting African Leadership & Civil Society Participation***

The Libreville CBFP meeting **doubled** the number of civil society participants from key groups among the 225 participants:

- Customary chiefs and indigenous leaders;
- Women leaders and networks;
- Media and press participants;
- Youth representatives;



# Outcome 2: New University Consortium

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Laval University and U-WIS proposed an international university consortium to coordinate training and research activities in the Congo Basin, open to all CBFP partners. Exchanges and activities of the consortium – currently including eight universities with others interested – will partner with local African universities to improve technical capacity, increase academic exchanges, and expand research in the region.



# *Outcome 3: Launch of Congo Basin Media Network*

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Using the CBFP meeting as a platform, a dozen members of the Network of Congo Basin Communications Professionals (RECEAC) showcased their plans to expand the network and work with COMIFAC, national ministries, and the CBFP to increase coverage and debate across the region on priority topics, including wildlife trafficking and major drivers of deforestation. Noubdoubaye Talomady of TV network TeleChad, learned that he won a national award for excellence in environmental reporting for an exposé on major wildlife poaching.



## Outcome 4: a potential new partner... Angola

Angola expressed interest in becoming a full CBFP Partner: two attendees affirmed their country's intention to become a partner government, laying out possible synergies and advantages.



# Outcome 5: Laying Groundwork for Cooperation to Combat Wildlife Trafficking

Wildlife Trafficking was a critical theme of the 13<sup>th</sup> CBFP Meeting. Many partners showed concern about the TRIDOM protected area complex on the borders of Gabon, Republic of Congo, and Cameroon, and the need for better coordination of efforts among partners and law enforcement authorities engaged in combating wildlife trafficking.





# Outcome 6: Private Sector Recommendations

**“Let’s all recognize that without priming the pump of the private sector Congo Basin countries will not open up or set up conditions to compete in the global economy.” - Praveen Moman, founder, Volcanoes Safaris**

- Set out steps for countries to ease visa restrictions for tourists/ business people from the EU and NAFTA. Visas could be granted on line( processed in three days like Rwanda) or on arrival. Give the countries an incentive to do this;
- Urge countries to set up investment advisory offices;
- Facilitate internships for key central African officials to visit East African parks, lodges, forests, tourism bureaux, ecotourism programs etc;
- Formalise private sector involvement in the CBFP. This could involve having 2-3 key players as advisers.

*The leading lodges of Uganda and Rwanda  
Kyambura Gorge · Bwindi · Mount Gahinga · Virunga*

Facebook: Volcanoes Safaris <<http://www.facebook.com/volcanoessafaris>>

Twitter: Volcanoessafari <<http://twitter.com/#!/volcanoessafari>>

# Look Ahead: Congo Basin CBFP REDD+ Platform

- ◉ Toward the 14th CBFP Meeting on Congo Basin Participation in REDD+
- ◉ Participation in REDD+ could allow countries to more fully address deforestation and degradation;
- ◉ An evaluation of the progress made since the Durban Declaration of Intent could allow all stakeholders to take stock and better align their efforts;
- ◉ The political engagement of states at the national level remains the key factor to successful REDD+ programs. State policies can also lead to the adoption of common regional positions, to assure follow through for REDD+ commitments at the national level;
- ◉ Need to promote current and potential initiatives to advance zoning and landscape management. This is linked to capacity in national monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems;
- ◉ REDD+ objectives, programs and strategies should strive toward development of green economic growth as defined by countries to engage multisectorial approaches and integrate these in overall development policies.

## *Facilitation Activities*

# U.S. Programs and Projects

The following agencies manage programs in central Africa and are part of the U.S. CBFP team:

- USAID Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Dept. of State
- Smithsonian Institution
- U.S. Geological Survey



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- ◎ FOR PROCEEDINGS OF THE 13TH CBFP MEETING, CONSULT THE FOLLOWING LINK: [HTTP://PFBC-CBFP.ORG/PROCEEDINGS/ITEMS/PROCEEDING-RDP13.HTML](http://pfbc-cbfp.org/proceedings/items/proceeding-rdp13.html)
- ◎ CBFP WEBSITE : [www.pfbc-cbfp.org](http://www.pfbc-cbfp.org)
- ◎ Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cong-o-Basin-Forest-Partnership/424394764326797?ref=stream>