



28th Conference of the Parties (COP 28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

COMIFAC Initiatives Pavilion

30 Nov - 12 Dec 2023, Expo City Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Call for proposals of side events for the “COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives Pavilion”

As a Side Event organiser, you become a Pavilion sponsor with a range of benefits

Deadline: 31 October 2023

The Central African forests, **as the world's only remaining tropical forest lung (still in operation)**, are a nature-based solution to the shared challenges of climate change, global biodiversity preservation and landscape restoration, and can significantly accelerate progress on common environmental challenges...

Moving forward with the **"Fair Deal"** for the protection of the Central African forests between the international community and the Central African countries, embodied in the **"Declaration of commitment of the COMIFAC Member States to the Central African forests and call for equitable financing"**

The **“COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives Pavilion”** offers sponsors Partners the opportunity to be at the forefront of essential dialogue and decision-making, and the opportunity to convene a global Climate, biodiversity conservation, development community around a Central African-led agenda. It is the only Central African outcome and action-oriented Pavilion of its kind to bring together decision-makers, scientist, practitioners, CSO in Climate, development and Biodiversity conservation focused exclusively in Central Africa.

INVITATION

The Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) in close collaboration with the GIZ regional support project for COMIFAC, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) France – Gabon Facilitation, the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), the EU Funded Support Project to the Central African Forests Observatory (RIOFAC) and The Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund (FTNS) are pleased to launch **a call for proposals** to host side events at the “**COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives Pavilion**” during the 28th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 28) in Expo City Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from **30th of November to 12th December 2023**. It will be a space for open interaction and communication.

In line with the COMIFAC convergence plan, the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals, and the CBFP France – Gabon Facilitation Roadmap, the “**COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives Pavilion**” will be a hub, a hotspot of events focusing on the Central African forests, a networking space for participants from the political, scientific and practical communities and a place for dialogue, discussion forum between players, stakeholders and potential partners from the Central African Region. It will be a centre for the exchange of ideas dedicated to Central Africa, bringing together the eleven member states of COMIFAC, the members of the CBFP, and the delegates and participants at **CoP 28**. It will be a space for open interaction and communication.

The “**COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives**” will provide all COP 28 participants with comprehensive information on the forests of Central Africa and its surroundings as a nature-based climate solution.

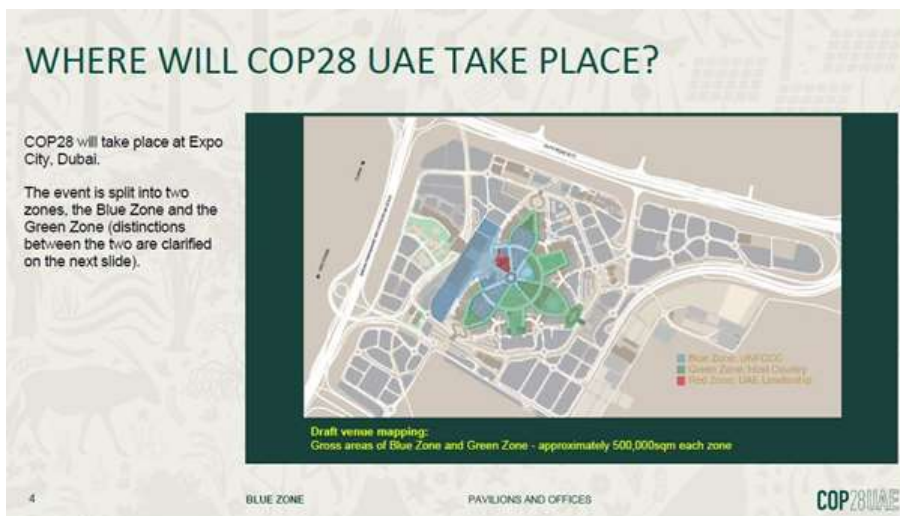
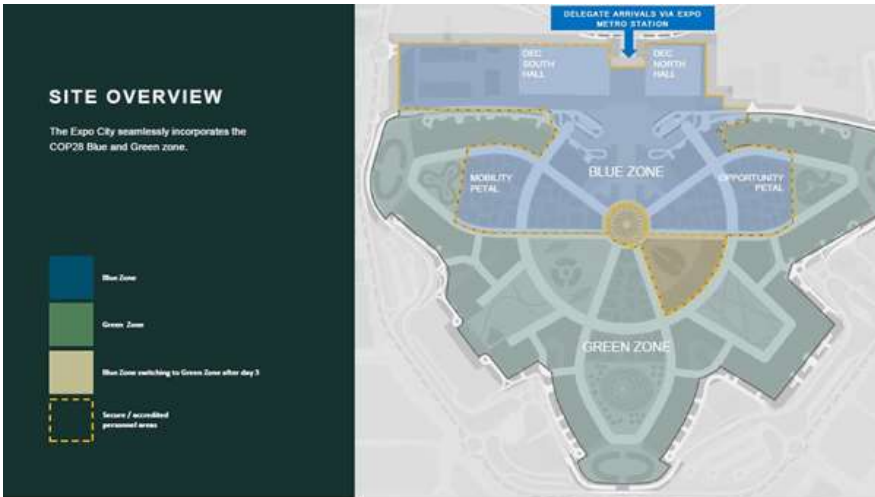
The " COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives " is an opportunity to highlight, to capitalize Central Africa's political, diplomatic, practical, research and innovation experience during **COP 28**.

This life-sized depiction of the Central African forest through the Pavilion, as seen at the side events, reflects increasing international recognition of the significance of the forests of this sub-region, its role in the fight against climate change, capacity to absorb much more CO₂ than the Amazon/Mekong Basin, peatlands, and importance as a major global reserve not only of soil carbon but also endemic biodiversity and mineral resources.

In order to frame the discussions and conclusions of COP28 in line with the priorities of the Central African, the " **COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives Pavilion** " will highlight the connections between climate change, biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management, and sustainable development in the Central African sub-region.

All events held in the " **COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives Pavilion** " are intended to promote, achieve, and obtain the proposed "Fair Deal" **between the international community and the Central African countries for the protection of the Central African forests** and to act on the "**Declaration of Commitment of the COMIFAC Member States to the Central African forests and call for equitable financing**" in an effort to promote equitable sharing of climate finance in favour of Central Africa.

VENUE: Expo City Dubai COP 28 - Blue Zone



Tentative

PAVILION TIER 2

100 m² – 140 m² ROOM FIT-OUT PACKAGE

The mid-tier room fit-out design offers a perfect solution for those seeking a space with impact, and ample opportunity for brand exposure.

Attendees will be engaged and inspired in a comfortable, spacious environment that promotes learning and collaboration.

The exhibition space will reflect your brand, while the presentation space is designed for immersive learning and engagement. Or, for a versatile option that combines the best of both worlds, choose a combined exhibition and presentation space.

The rooms have several configurations that will meet the needs of your delegation's approach to COP28.

Each Tier 2 space offers:

- Internal and external branding, carpet, furniture package – chairs, tables, seating, lockable cupboard, presentation AV & sound and stage.
- Within each package there is flexibility to choose and customise wall branding, furniture layout and on-screen messages and branding.
- Additional services and upgrades to core items, such as furniture, internet, AV, office equipment, catering and cleaning, can be ordered via the delegation online manual.

• Air Conditioning, Public Wi-Fi, Power, Lighting come as standard within each space

BLUE ZONE PAVILIONS AND OFFICES COP28 UAE

Priorities and focus areas of the “COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives Pavilion”

The Pavilion’s strategic and operational priorities in terms of nature-based solutions will be presented and discussed during high-level events, thematic and networking sessions, Country Days, youth, women, local communities and indigenous peoples’ Days and exhibitions around the "Declaration of Commitment of the COMIFAC Member States to the Central African forests and call for equitable financing".

Thus, a wide range of side events will be held at the Pavilion to foster engagement, share experiences by facilitating dialogue between sectors and stakeholders and promote collaboration for immediate action on the Congo Basin to move forward in key thematic areas.

1. High-level visits;
2. High-level bilateral VIP meetings between the Central African countries and donors (High-level political dialogue events).
3. Thematic sessions, side events - “Side Events”
4. COMIFAC Country Days (Each country in the COMIFAC region will be allotted two **1h00 slots** on a specific day).
5. Exhibition sessions for networking, showcasing success stories as well as innovative results in Central Africa.
6. Film projections.
7. Launching events - For announcements from partners, launch of initiatives, release of study reports and main reports
8. Congo Basin Stakeholders Voice : Stakeholder days will be held : Youth Day, Women's Day, Local and Indigenous Peoples’ Days: Will each have a 1h00 time slot on a specific day.

Thus, the purpose of all these side events held at the Pavilion is to foster engagement, share experiences by facilitating dialogue between the sectors and stakeholders and promote collaboration for immediate action on the Central African Forests to move forward in key thematic areas identified below. The Pavilion events encourage multi-sector, multi-stakeholder dialogue and emphasize inclusive networking and participation of audiences such as party delegates, observers, scientists, business, civil society, indigenous groups, women and youth and other participants.

A major challenge for the Pavilion will be raising the profile of the Congo Basin before the general public by highlighting its important role in balancing the climate.

Thematic areas for proposals

The proposed side events should cover the following key thematic areas:

1. “ Fair Deal “: Good governance of Central African forests and equitable financing: Finance and Governance
2. Implementation of NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) in Central Africa
3. “Loss and damage” (refer to damage and loss caused by climate change, more extreme weather events, rising sea levels or increasingly frequent droughts).
4. Adapting to the effects of climate change

5. Public financing, private financing, Philanthropy
6. Intersectoral coordination and environmental initiatives in Central Africa: Striking a balance between mitigation and adaptation
7. Climate change mitigation - Energy transitions, wood energies, renewable energies - Transparency and accounting mechanisms - Technology transfer - Low Emission Development (LED) - Transition to carbon neutrality - Pay for results
8. Landscape Restoration – Bonn Challenge – AFR100 in Central Africa - Reforestation
9. Post 2020 Ambition (30x30) – biodiversity conservation – cross-border protected areas including transhumance
10. Sustainable Management – Forest Governance – Economy, Growth and Industrialization
11. Transhumance
12. Climate Change Adaptation Measures - National Adaptation Action Programs (NAPA); National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

Pavilion’s challenges and expected results:

The COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives Pavilion is expected to host over four (4) high-level political events, over fifty (50) **60-minute** thematic events, including in the form of collaborative workshops, discussion podiums, and group meetings, networking sessions as part of the exhibitions, high-level political bilateral meetings, interaction and collaboration spaces for networking, dialogue, interactive exhibition space of the Central African community, especially those providing data-supported examples of the Central African Forests ’s contribution to urgent action against global climate change.

Responding to the call for proposals

*COMIFAC, the GIZ Regional Support Project for COMIFAC, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) France – Gabon Facilitation, the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), the EU Funded Support Project to the Central African Forests Observatory (RIOFAC and The Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund (FTNS) hereby launch a call for proposals to host side events lasting **no more than 60 minutes** under the « **COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives** », at the COP28 venue from **30th November to 12th December 2023.***

The side events are intended to give participants the chance to identify and discuss pressing topics, essential concepts relevant to the climate change negotiating process, as well as pressing deadlines and real challenges related to climate change and the development of Central Africa. Discussions that bring together the public and private sectors to facilitate comparative, interdisciplinary and inter-institutional exchanges on issues relating to climate change and Central Africa’s development are especially encouraged.

The following guidelines are offered, however there is no set format for proposals. Applications should be submitted before **31 October 2023.**

The submissions will be reviewed by a technical committee comprising members of the organizing committee based on the following criteria, factoring in balanced coverage of thematic areas. The committee's decision is final. Applicants whose proposals are selected will be contacted on **10th November 2023.**

Selection criteria

The following criteria will be used to select side events:

- Relevance to Central Africa (20)
- Relevance to COP 28 (i.e. in relation to the current subjects of negotiation 10)
- Well-structured proposal with a number (4 or 5) of inter-related topics/key issues to be addressed or projects/interventions to be discussed (10)
- Clear goals and outcomes (10)
- Potential for producing supporting publications - before / after the event (please provide details - blogs to provide implementation guidelines, technical papers or briefing notes to explain concepts before or after the event are encouraged) (10)
- Speakers identified and availability confirmed (10)
- Speakers from diverse backgrounds/representing a variety of stakeholders - e.g., African and non-African parties, donors, consultants, private sector, INGOs and civil society, ... (10).
- Backup arrangements in the event of unavailability of a speaker(s) (5)
- Collaboration between institutions to host side events (5)
- Side events are clearly aligned with one or two thematic areas of the Pavilion (5).
- Slides to be made available for download (please confirm) (5)

No one speaker should speak for more than 30 minutes and the Technical Committee welcomes events that include a panel of speakers / a Panellist, a moderator / rapporteur and make room for questions from the audience. The possibility of virtual presentations is currently being evaluated.

Presentations may be of a technical or political nature and may highlight the work of participating organizations but should not be "publicity stunts".

Two or more organizations can get together to present a side event proposal.

The organisation of each event is entirely the responsibility of the event organiser.

Expenses

The following conditions and/or expenses should be considered when planning events:

- Free for Partners that are main Sponsors of the Pavilion
- Free for COMIFAC member countries and civil society actors.
- Free for all CBFP members, but voluntary contributions are welcome.
- A voluntary contribution to be deployed under the responsibility of the donor is welcome for partners wishing to organise an event. The Organising Committee would only be responsible for putting the event organiser in contact with the CoP service providers: e.g. for meals, streaming, interpretation, translation, technical equipment. The Organising Committee will not be involved in any financial transactions with CoP service providers.
- However, all partners organising parallel events will benefit of - Our Offer: all the logos of the parallel event organisers displayed on a dedicated wall in the Pavilion;

communication/marketing; display of a Roll Up for 5 days; dissemination of information, videos/content/films on the Pavilion.

Successful candidates will also be encouraged to provide drinks or buffets at their events. If you are interested in this option, please fill out the appropriate section of the application form. All related transactions will be the responsibility of the event organiser.

In addition to side events, the organizing committee also welcomes submissions for exhibitions, films, or any other activity that is relevant to the COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives Pavilion. A poster, a video or PowerPoint presentation, or a networking event can be entered as an exhibition. The Communications Committee will be in touch with interested parties in due course. If you are interested in this option, please fill out the appropriate section of the application form.

Terms and conditions

The organizing committee will make every effort to accommodate scheduling requests but offers no guarantees and reserves the right to change the schedule of events.

Gaining access to CoP 28 and the meeting venue will be the sole responsibility of the participants and their speakers (they must ensure that they are accredited for CoP 28). **The organizing committee does not have authority to grant or secure access to the venue.**

Participants will be responsible for all their own expenses.

Each event organiser is responsible for the organisation of the its entire Event.

Organizers of selected events are required to report to the office of the ***“COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives” Pavilion*** and meet the side events coordinator no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the side event in order to:

1. Help prepare and collect engraved or blank nameplates for the speakers; and
2. Submit copies of their speakers' PowerPoint presentations on a USB flash drive. Presentations may also be sent ahead of time by email.
3. Organising publicity, the accreditation of speakers, moderators and presenters and the running of the event is strictly the responsibility of the event organiser **and not the Organising Committee.**

It is compulsory for the organisers to leave the pavilion clean after the event.

All the presentations will be published on the web pages of COMIFAC and the CBF.

Organizers must see to it that all their speakers and presenters are informed of the venue and start time. If speakers become unavailable, the organizers will be responsible for providing substitute speakers.

Organizers may distribute handouts and other material related to their side event in the side event room immediately prior to and during the event but must clear the handouts from the side event room once the event ends to make way for the next event. Organizers may distribute handouts and materials on the tables outside the side event room on the day of their event.

Papers and material left on tables outside the side event rooms must be cleaned by the event organisers following the event and at the end of each day.

Parallel event organisers must provide the Organising Committee with name plates for speakers announced in advance and blank sheets to be filled in by hand for speakers without names.

The side events room in the " COMIFAC – Central Africa Initiatives ", will be equipped with at least 4 or 5 chairs and a lectern, tables, fixed and mobile microphones as well as PowerPoint presentation devices.

The organizers will have to leave the room as it is without changing the layout.

The Organizing Committee may record the sessions on video, audio, or both, as well as take pictures and make the recordings public. They may also authorize third parties to do the same.

We look forward to receiving your high-quality proposals.

The Organizing Committee

*COMIFAC Executive Secretariat, GIZ regional support project for COMIFAC and CBF
Facilitation*