

**19th Meeting of the Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Side Event**  
**Thursday, 7 July – 1PM to 3 PM – Salle Franceville**

**Zoom:** <https://fao.zoom.us/j/96051753519> - **Passcode: 13998579**

**Participatory, science-based and community rights-based development  
of sustainable village hunting models:  
experiences and prospects in the Congo Basin**

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| <b>Organizer</b>   | <b>Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme</b> |
| <b>Co-organizer</b>  | FAO, CIRAD, WCS, CIFOR, DGFAP, IRET              |
| <b>CONTEXTE ET OBJECTIFS</b>   |  |
| <p>The forest people of Central Africa have been hunting and fishing wildlife for food and other necessities for millennia. Increasing demand from urban consumers and continued deforestation pose growing threats to forest wildlife at varying levels of pressure across the Congo Basin. In many places, so-called subsistence hunting (for self-consumption and livelihoods) has already depleted populations of hunted species, depriving indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) of an essential source of food, income and cultural identity.</p> <p>The adoption in 2016 of a sub-regional strategy for the use of wildlife by local and indigenous communities in Central Africa within the framework of COMIFAC underlined the awareness of the states of the sub-region of the need to evolve village hunting management systems to meet the 21st century challenges of reconciling human well-being and biodiversity conservation. This has recently been compounded by increased concerns about zoonotic risks from wildlife.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the plurality of socio-ecological, demographic, epidemic and economic contexts in Central African countries, as well as traditional natural resource management systems, implies both the possibility and the need to consider different management models to best fit local realities and be more accepted and effective.</p> <p>In the framework of this session, the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme, funded by the European Union in Central Africa, brought together both the SWM pilot projects in the sub-region (Congo, DRC and Gabon) but also other initiatives in Cameroon and at the sub-regional level (Wildmeat funded by USFWS; SNAPP project) in order to illustrate the current collaborative dynamic aimed at meeting the needs of the Congo Basin states to develop models capable of supporting the rights and efforts of IPLCs in the management and exploitation of their wildlife resources. This dynamic aims at promoting participatory processes, using scientific data as well as good practices and lessons learned from field experiences, to inform decision-making on policy and legal reforms.</p> |  |
| <b>Side event objectives</b>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stimulate the exchange of experiences and best practices in community-based natural resource management</li><li>• Identify the constraints to achieving sustainable wildlife management that reconciles biodiversity conservation and the well-being of the populations in Central Africa, particularly in regard of the recognition of customary use rights</li></ul>   |  |
| <b>Keywords :</b> Sustainable natural resources management, forest governance, customary use rights, secure land and natural resource tenure, food security, food safety, One Health approach.   |  |

## AGENDA

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|---------------|---|
| 13:00 – 13:15 | Welcome and opening remarks   |
| 13:15 – 14:40 | <p><b>Presentations :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Model 1:</b> SWM DRC - Organising sustainable subsistence hunting in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in a zone of chronic vulnerability (Daniel Mukubi<sup>i</sup> &amp; Paulin Polepole<sup>ii</sup>)</li> <li>• <b>Model 2:</b> Enabling Baka communities to achieve food security, improve their health and preserve biodiversity around the Dja River - Cameroon (Robert Okalé<sup>iii</sup>)</li> <li>• <b>Model 3:</b> SWM Congo - Mobilise the private sector around Ouessou to create the conditions for sustainable hunting for traditional communities living in forest concessions (Germain Mavah<sup>ii</sup> &amp; Noel Malanda<sup>iv</sup>)</li> <li>• <b>Model 4:</b> Experiences of community management of village hunting in support to the creation of a national model in Gabon (Hadrien Vanthomme<sup>v</sup> &amp; Alex Ebang Mbele<sup>vi</sup>)</li> <li>• <b>From science to law:</b> platforms for exchange of experience and information services at sub-regional level in support of national legal reform or development processes             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creating an evidence base for wild meat research, policy and practice in Central Africa (Kate Abernethy<sup>vii</sup>)</li> <li>- Policy, legal and institutional reform process for sustainable wildmeat management in Gabon (Michelle Ngwapaza<sup>viii</sup>)</li> <li>- An introduction to the SNAPP working group: Supporting the development of evidence-based, effective and equitable wildmeat policies in Central Africa (Donald Iponga<sup>vii</sup>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 14:40 – 14:55 | Questions / Answers   |
| 14:55 – 15:00 | Closing remarks   |

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