



# Congo Basin Forest Partnership

## *Medium-term Priorities*

*(Final version adopted by CBFP parties at the 17<sup>th</sup> MOP)*

At the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the parties held in Kigali in November 2016, “the parties agreed to initiate a structured dialogue within the colleges and the CBFP Council with a view to arriving at a clear description of the priorities on which the partners have agreed to focus CBFP cooperation over the next 3-5 years and which will be adopted at the next Meeting of the Parties” <sup>(1)</sup>.

In accordance with this decision, and on the basis of the work carried out at the level of the streams and college meetings during the 16<sup>th</sup> MOP, the EU Facilitation team summarized a first draft list of 19 medium-term priorities. This initial version was then distributed to College representatives in February 2017, with a view to gathering feedback and suggestions for improvement from all partners. A finalized version completed on this basis was presented to CBFP Council in May 2017, which validated it with some minor amendments <sup>(2)</sup>.

The final version of CBFP's medium-term priorities, resulting from the process described above is presented in the following pages.

It is important to bear in mind that the prioritization process is not intended to limit and narrow the activities undertaken by CBFP Partners under the Partnership, but to organize them more formally, in order to increase the visibility of the activities carried out by the Partnership, in a view to improve the branding of the partnership <sup>(3)</sup>. The ambition is to provide the partnership with a dynamic tool to categorize current and future partners' actions, as well as to allow better external communication pertaining to these activities.

The 19 CBFP medium-term priorities are all in line, often in more ways than one, with the strategic objectives of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems for the 2015- 2025 period. They also provide a practical operational framework for the implementation, in the countries of the Congo Basin countries, of the dynamics of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

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<sup>(1)</sup> See the final communiqué of the 16<sup>th</sup> CBFP MOP: [http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/index\\_en.html?file=docs/16e-rdp-Kigali-2016/MOP-16-FINAL-COMMUNIQUE-CBFP-WITH-ATTACHMENTS-EN.pdf](http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/index_en.html?file=docs/16e-rdp-Kigali-2016/MOP-16-FINAL-COMMUNIQUE-CBFP-WITH-ATTACHMENTS-EN.pdf)

<sup>(2)</sup> See the report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> CBFP Council meeting, <http://pfbc-cbfp.org/Conseil-du-PFBC.html>

<sup>(3)</sup> As a matter of fact, the 19 priorities listed are already being pursued by the vast array of field activities implemented by CBFP partners in their current work plans.

# CONGO BASIN FOREST PARTNERSHIP: MEDIUM-TERM PRIORITIES (2018-2022)

## Area 1. Promoting more efficient interaction and cooperation in the Congo Basin

<b>Strengthening CBFP</b>	
1	Promote an efficient and results-oriented governance of the Partnership
2	Convene the key actors for the region's economic development, including those in cabinets of the Presidents, the PMs and the Ministers of Finance and Economy, together with bankers and investors
3	Commitment by all CBFP partners to prioritize actions to promote the protection and sustainable management of the Congo Basin Forests in all relevant fora and within their own organizations
<b>Promoting knowledge-based decision-making</b>	
4	Promote information systems and others systems to support political decisions in the region, and improve the way in which relevant analyses and information are made available to decision-makers and are transformed into policy and the implementation of decisions
5	Encourage sound research and training networks, increasing the role of social sciences, and strengthen the linkage between research and practice
<b>Strengthening existing mechanisms and tools for more effective coordination and cooperation</b>	
6	Support coordination platforms and thematic exchange among partners involved in implementation of activities, and more specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) develop a database of CBFP technical and financial partners' interventions, and organize this database in line with the main elements of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan;</li> <li>b) support technical exchanges between the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, academia and governments in order to promote sustainable forest management and conservation.</li> </ul>
<b>Strengthening the role of COMIFAC in the Congo Basin</b>	
7	Promote effective implementation of COMIFAC's mandate, including by strengthening operational linkages between existing COMIFAC Structures (Working Groups and Coordination meetings) and activities of CBFP partners
8	Promote more effective contributions by civil society and the private sector to the planning and implementation of COMIFAC activities, and ensure that those contributions adequately integrate gender issues

## Area 2. Thematic priority objectives and actions

<b>Promoting the sustainable management and conservation of forest resources, notably by combating poaching and wildlife trafficking</b>	
9	Promote the enforcement of international, regional and national laws and regulations in support of good governance
10	Integrate poaching and bush-meat issues in a socio-economic approach recognizing local needs and constraints
11	Promote trans-boundary approaches/Landscape and the integration of security concerns in the gazetting and management of protected areas and forests concessions, notably harmonized anti-poaching activities in the most vulnerable border areas, such as Great Virunga, Garamba-Chinko, TNS, TRIDOM etc
12	Promote the sustainable management of production forests at the industrial and local scales, as well as the development of sustainable supply chains for timber products, including appropriate controls
<b>Addressing the impact of non-forestry sectors and related land-use decisions on the Congo Basin Forests</b>	
13	Mobilize key companies in the agro-industrial, mining and oil industries, and support the development of sustainable commodity supply chains
14	Mobilize all relevant national public administrations (trade, economy, finance, infrastructure, land use, mining, etc.) and regional bodies (notably ECCAS) in order to promote shared and comprehensive decision-making processes on key cross-sectoral linkages of major importance to the protection and sustainable management of the Congo Basin Forests
<b>Promoting sustainable economic development of local communities</b>	
15	Promote community-based development initiatives (including livelihoods strategies) in conservation, forestry and sustainable development programs and strategies
16	Promote the recognition of land rights of local people and the consideration of gender issues in conservation, forestry, and sustainable development programs and strategies
<b>Climate change</b>	
17	Assist COMIFAC member states in developing and maintaining strong common positions in international climate negotiations
18	Promote exchanges with major ongoing climate-related initiatives in the Congo Basin (CAFI, bilateral or multilateral programs in the field of REDD+, FIP, NAPAs, NDC, NAMAs, LEDs, etc.)
19	Support mobilization and implementation at field level of climate finance mechanisms in COMIFAC member states