

## **Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Franco-Gabonese Facilitation of the CBFP (2023-2025)**



### **Side Event Proposal**

**Event title:** Meeting between the Sahel and northern equatorial Africa - The challenges of the nexus: cross-border transhumance, survival of protected areas, natural resources, and human lives, development, security and peace

*Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 17:00 - 18:30*

*Zoom Link:*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89931315494?pwd=nFIYRCOLGUoG6gBibTxwUhn4u3qfp1.1>

*Meeting ID: 899 3131 5494*

*Password: 589465*

#### **Brief context of the proposed side event**

Transboundary Transhumance herding is the culture and identity of the cattle-herders and traders in the Sahel, with migrations stretching from southern Niger, through northern Nigeria, northeastern Cameroon, southwestern Chad, western region of the Central African Republic and the northeastern of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Though transhumance itself is one of the adaptation strategies against climate change, in the past decades, the movement of herders across the borders has become an issue linked to land degradation and loss of biodiversity, which has threatened their livelihood and survival, has increased their

vulnerability as they are often subject to conflicts with farmers, and fallen prey to bandits, poachers, and authorities who resent their relative wealth in cattle and their access to natural resources. exacerbated by the impact of climate change which causes vulnerability for different communities and regions on the African continent, specially to cross border transhumant in west and central Africa.

The 2019 Ndjamenan International Conference of the Ministers reflected on the challenges and conflicts faced by transboundary transhumant due to their transhumance lifestyle and adherence to older traditions, which involves moving their herds across borders and territories in search of pasture and water. The ministers in charge of Livestock, Agriculture, Defense, Justice, Home External and Affairs, Local Development, Cooperation, Environment and Forestry came up with the Ndjamenan Declaration to address the Nexus: Transhumance, Protected Areas, Natural Resources, Development, Peace, and Security. The Declaration is being implemented in eight countries. Regarding the implementation of the Declaration, country experts prepared in collaboration with their strategic partners (the leaders and co-leaders of the blocks) the concepts of the geographical and thematic blocks, the programmatic logical frameworks, the budgeted roadmaps, and diplomatic action plans for the German Facilitation.

Under the High Patronage of His Excellency Mr PAUL BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon, Head of State, the High-Level Meeting on the "Second International Conference of Ministers on Cross-border Transhumance. Nexus: transhumance, protected areas and natural resources, development, peace, and security" was held in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon, from July 10 to 12, 2023. The meeting was organized by the Federal Republic of Germany's Facilitation of the CBFP, in close collaboration with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and Cameroon. The Conference ushered in the French and Gabonese Republics Co-Facilitation of the CBFP and culminated in the presentation of the compendium of investment plans for the eight countries. The compendium of country investment plans contains proposals from these countries in three thematic and geographical blocks (East, Centre, West) as well as priority action points for a total budget of 506,720,174 euros.

**Through this high-level parallel event, the French and Gabonese Republics Co-Facilitation of the CBFP** endeavors to bring on the table of discussion high level speakers and partners that will inform the **Global Forum on Migration and Development** on the insights from the N'Djamena Declaration implementation. Representatives from the various Stakeholders Groups of the N'Djamena Declaration 2019 will also attend the event.

### **Why participate in this session?**

This side event *aims to delve deeper into the key take aways of the implementation of the Ndjamenan Declaration on peaceful transhumance between the Sahel and northern equatorial Africa.* The Event will present practical cases from the field and the country investment plans compendium adopted by the eight countries of the N'Djamena Declaration, in Yaoundé at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the Ministers on Transhumance held in July 2023. In addition, *the'' high-level political round table''* will debate on the need to shape the framework for cross-border collaboration, and the regional transhumance dynamics. In the'' *feeds from the field panel''*, **the Leaders and Coleaders of the geographic blocks (east, West, and Central)** based on their field experience will bring to the fore, the different mechanisms / measures to wholistically tackle the gap between climate change, migration, biodiversity conservation, peace and security, local development, and preservation of cultural heritage. The side event This session will pave way for the *key actors from the'' panel transhumance governance''* to make recommendations on the way forward to curb the tide of the various ills attached to this high potential economic activity

(lawlessness, traffic of all kinds, money laundry, kidnapping, peace and security, customs, human rights abuses...)

### **Brief description of the session**

- 1.** The main topics are the climate change, environmental degradation, and Herders cross border mobility (migration). This subject is of paramount importance given, the rise of the flow of transhumant herders from the Sahel to the Nord equatorial area of the Congo Basin Forests is a cause for concerns. Trafficking of all kinds, insecurity, and conflicts, alongside the transboundary transhumance activity causes negative socio-economic impacts in the Congo Basin Forests countries, pressures on the conservation of forest ecosystems, and threats on the development of local and indigenous communities. Considering the untapped socio-economic and cultural potentials of the transboundary transhumance activity, Country Experts supported by their technical and financial partners prepared eight country investment plans (CIP). These CIP, which was adopted during the Yaoundé Conference, will be presented at the event.
- 2.** To counter the complexity of cross border transhumance and its negative effects, high profile international actors will discuss on the need to intensify cooperation between governments and development partners. They will present innovative inclusive actions that can be drawn from to ensure sustainable management of natural resource, to safeguard transhumance traditional Knowledge, to promote climate change adaptation mechanisms, to contextualize transparency and to implement natural resources governance.
- 3.** The key take aways from the implementation of the Ndjamen Declaration on peaceful transhumance between the Sahel and northern equatorial Africa are useful insights for development and migration practitioners, especially when it comes to the involvement of young people and women in the sustainable management of biodiversity conservation, enabling cross-border collaboration, to promote peaceful and risk-free transboundary transhumance.
- 4.** This session will showcase the role of technical and financial partners in the regional dynamics of cross border transhumance. Leaders and Coleaders of the geographic blocks (east, West, and Central) will share their experience on how they supported the selected States in the implementation of the Ndjamen Declaration. What are the next steps, moving forward with the process?

### **Design and format of the proposed session**

This session will open with the keynote speeches from selected high-profile actors in the transboundary transhumance and the migration fields. The take aways from the implementation of the Ndjamen Declaration on peaceful transhumance between the Sahel and northern equatorial Africa will set the tone for the " high-level political panel" composed of the top representatives of international organizations, who will discuss on the need to shape the framework for cross-border collaboration, and the regional transhumance dynamics. The " high-level political panel" shall be followed by the " feeds from the field panel", and the " panel transhumance governance." The side event will end with the recommended priority actions to advocate for.

### **Side Event objectives characterizing the session**

- i.** Show case the interrelation between transboundary transhumant mobility, climate change and the biodiversity degradation, as well as the different mechanisms to reverse the red.
- ii.** Present how the implementation of the Ndjamen Declaration by the Leaders and Coleaders of the three geographic blocks (East, West, and Centre) has been useful in raising the awareness on the

transboundary Transhumance issues and placing it on the agenda of national, regional, and international meetings/forums.

- iii. Considering that Transhumance has just been listed as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the organizers of the event will more than before advocate and lobby for a rapid implementation of the Country Investment Plans Compendium.

### Considering gender equality

Transhumance involves shared rituals and social practices, animal care and husbandry, land, forest and water resource management, and natural hazard management. Women possess special skills related to all kinds of crafts and food production. The country investment plans Compendium integrate women into the sustainable management of natural resources, given that they directly feel the negative impacts of the disappearance of forests. As multiple disasters follow one another, increasingly undermining the sustainable and peaceful management of transboundary transhumance, it is paramount to have a creative climate and gender actions in the Sahel and the Congo Basin Forests areas regarding transboundary transhumance, in line with the Paris Agreement and the UN SDG no 5.

The organizers of the session will ensure that human rights - women herders rights are brought to the fore by a woman who will participate in the event. The session will be led by a woman with legal and transhumance experiences in West and central Africa. She was the Transhumance Advisor for the outgoing Facilitation of the Federal Republic of Germany for the CBFP. She spearheaded the transhumance day concept in DRC as well as the drafting process of the eight Country Investment Plans for the implementation of the Ndjamenan declaration.

### Panelist and Speakers

#### GFMD Summit theme(s) related to the session.

- The impact of climate change on human mobility. Rights and migration
- Culture, narratives, and migration - multi-level governance of migration

#### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Objective 12 - Responsible consumption and production

Objective 13 - Measures relating to the fight against climate change

**Proposed Agenda:** Side event program will be structured in four parts on **Wednesday, 24.01.2024 from 17:00 - 18:30** as display in the table below.

**Moderation:** Barr Bertille Mayen, CBFP Transhumance expert

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TIME	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	
17h-17h15	<p><b>Welcome and opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ CBFP French Co-Facilitation, <b>Ambassador Christophe Guilhou</b></li> <li>➤ <b>H.E. Dr. Honoré Tabuna:</b> ECCAS Commissioner in Charge of the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development Department!</li> <li>➤ <b>Message from Civil society:</b> Member of the Mbororo Peul community in Chad, campaigner for the protection of the environment and the promotion of human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples, <b>Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim</b></li> </ul>	<b>Moderator</b>
17h15-17h40	<p><b>Keynote speeches on the N'Djamena Declaration:</b> Its Importance, Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects including strategic reflections: on the Neo-pastoralism - Increasing number of livestock - Economic issues - Biodiversity conservation - Sovereignty issues - Cross-border collaboration/Agreements - Legal framework vs. customs and traditions - Peace and security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Need to shape the framework for cross-border collaboration, and the regional transhumance dynamics, Minister of State, <b>H.E.M. Francois-Xavier de Donnea</b>, Kingdom of Belgium</li> <li>➤ Perspective on the nexus: Transhumance, migration, climate change, natural resources, peace, security and development, International Organization for Migration, <b>Mr DIOP Abdel Rahmane</b>, Chief of Mission, IOM Cameroon</li> </ul>	
17h40-18h10	<p><b>Feeds from the field panel: Insights from the implementation of the Ndjamen Declaration - Results of studies, strategies, mapping, programming, projects, Cross-border agreements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping the nexus: cross-border transhumance, survival of protected areas, natural resources, and human lives, development, security and peace and (<b>Florence Palla, RIOFAC</b>)</li> <li>• Results of Studies, Strategies (<b>Paul Scholte, GIZ; Amy Pokempner; Matt Luizza, USFWS; Timea Szarkova, Concordis International</b>)</li> <li>• Case Studies, Practical Strategies, Countries' Investment Plans and Cross-border agreements (Geographic Block Leaders: <b>Emmanuel Namkoisse, WCS, Luca Ferrini, GIZ</b>)</li> <li>• Regional Cooperation on the nexus peaceful transhumance - Regional Economic Communities (RECs): ECCAS, IGAD, ECOWAS: <b>Moussa Demsa Baschirou, ECCAS; Japheth Kasimbu, IGAD</b></li> </ul>	<b>Moderator</b>
18h25-18h30	<p><b>Closing session</b></p> <p><b>Recommendations and conclusions</b></p> <p><b>Closing address, Gabonese Republic CBFP Co-Facilitator, Ambassador Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo</b></p>	<b>Moderator</b>

**Type of session:** Thematic session - **Language of the proposal:** French and English

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**Please provide any additional relevant links here:**

**Second International Conference of Ministers on Transboundary Transhumance of Yaoundé: the report is now available!:** <https://pfbc-cbfp.org/news-partner/Transboundary-Transhumance-repport.html>

**The N'Djamena Declaration 2019:** [https://pfbc-cbfp.org/files/docs/key\\_docs/fac7-Belgique\\_2018-19/-D%C3%A9claration%20de%20N'djamena\\_Final\\_EN%281%29.pdf](https://pfbc-cbfp.org/files/docs/key_docs/fac7-Belgique_2018-19/-D%C3%A9claration%20de%20N'djamena_Final_EN%281%29.pdf)