

Summary of CAFI's two side-events at the margins of the CBFP MoP19 in Libreville, Gabon, July 2022

High-level roundtable on the vision 2030 for the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)

Libreville, 7 July 2022

CAFI's high-level roundtable provided a space for fruitful dialogue and joint reflection amongst high-level representatives from CAFI's donor and partner countries as well as key technical partners. The high-level representatives addressed lessons learnt from the partnerships established by CAFI, as well as the opportunities and perspectives for continued policy dialogue and enhanced results. The event was moderated by the Head of the CAFI Secretariat, Ms. Berta Pesti.



The following high-level representatives of CAFI's financial, strategic and technical partners intervened during the event, sharing their vision for the future of CAFI, emphasizing the strengths of the initiative as well as suggestions for improved outcomes:

Country/organization	Title and name
Republic of Gabon (Host)	His Excellency the Minister of Waters, Forests, Sea and Environment, Dr. Lee White
Republic of Gabon (Host)	Permanent Secretary of the National Climate Council, Mr. Tanguy Gahouma
Republic of Congo	Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Forest Economy, Mr. Pierre Taty
Democratic Republic of Congo	Deputy Director of Cabinet of the Ministry of Finance, Ms Ginette Nzau-Muteta
COMIFAC and Cameroon	President of COMIFAC and Minister of Wildlife and Forests, Mr. Jules Ndongo Doret
Germany	His Excellency the State Secretary of Economic Development and Cooperation, Mr. Jochen Flasbarth
France	Director of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Philippe Lacoste
Norway	Special Envoy of the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Mr. Hans Brattskar
United Kingdom	Head of International Forests Unit, Department for business, energy and industrial strategy, Ms. Maggie Charnley
United Nations, Gabon	Resident Coordinator, Ms. Savina Ammassari
United Nations Development Programme, Gabon	Resident Representative, Mr. Francis James
The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Gabon	Director, Ms. Marie Claire Paiz
French Development Agency (AFD)	Director of the Department of Ecological Transitions and Natural Resources, Dr. Gilles Kleitz

The high-level representatives of the donor and partner countries reached consensus on a set of proposed solutions aimed at improving their collaboration and strengthening the partner countries' national ownership of the partnerships. Amongst others, they suggested organising more frequent meetings with the donor representatives in the Central African region; enhancing high-level representation in the policy dialogue between donor and partner countries; facilitating and promoting the participation of eligible national technical partners in the implementation of programme objectives, and ramping up capacity building of national entities. Finally, the partners agreed to

continue their joint dialogue on matters related to the governance of CAFI, and to translate their vision into concrete next steps in due course.

Annual Forum of the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)

Libreville, 6 July 2022

CAFI's Annual Forum 2022 successfully created a space for dialogue and exchange amongst more than 100 technical-level representatives from civil society organisations, implementing organisations and governments in CAFI's partner countries in the Congo Basin, as well as technical-level representatives of CAFI's Executive Board. The event allowed stakeholders to address and discuss progress towards the objectives of the Letters of Intent signed between CAFI and three Central African countries (DR Congo, Republic of Congo and Gabon), lessons learnt and recommendations for the way forward. Furthermore, the event facilitated joint reflections on strengths and concerns raised by the civil society with regards to the implementation of the objectives of the partnerships set up by CAFI. The event was moderated by Ms. Marit Hjort from the CAFI Secretariat.



The forum consisted of three panels, each of them covering questions specific to one of the following CAFI partner countries: Gabon, the DR Congo and the Republic of Congo. Each panel consisted of four panellists, representing the government of the country in focus, CAFI's Executive Board, implementing organisations and the civil society, respectively. As part of each panel, civil society representatives in the audience (in the room and online) were given the chance to ask questions to the panellists. The discussions that followed allowed clarifying existing arrangements and exploring possible new opportunities for involving civil society organisations in the governance and activities related to CAFI's programmes. The participants also highlighted the importance of awareness raising and a fair distribution of benefits relating to carbon credit mechanisms. Further, the panellists and audience discussed the progress towards the objectives of CAFI's programmes in the three partner countries, and highlighted next steps to scale up results.

In his closing remarks on behalf of CAFI's Executive Board, Mr Tony Baumann from the German government thanked the participants for sharing their valuable reflections and feedback, which demonstrate the relevance and importance of the CAFI initiative to a large number of stakeholders. He further highlighted CAFI's commitment to sustaining the dialogue with civil society organisations, through the governance and monitoring structures of the programmes supported by CAFI as well as through dedicated consultation fora.