

## **GEF7 Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Program (CBSL)**

### **Regional Consultation**

### **Concept Note & Agenda**

**Dates January 17-18, 2019**

**Venue: Radisson Blu Okoume Hotel, Libreville, Gabon**

#### **Objectives of the Regional Consultation**

- Understand the principles of GEF7 Impact Programs, and specifically the GEF7 Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Program (CBSL);
- Explore the landscapes and the themes that fit the CBSL criteria;
- Highlight the complementarity between the regional and the national levels;
- Discuss the Expressions of Interests prepared by countries.

#### **Targeted audience: 50 persons**

- GEF Operational Focal Points from six Congo Basin Countries: they will have already prepared the EoI, and had dialogues with the Conventions Focal Points and experts
- One-two experts per country, to be discussed by OFP and GEFSEC: COMIFAC, REDD+, CBD focal point, project leader, CSO/NGO/institutions (...) who will share an experience
- GEF Secretariat
- Selected experts (Universities from the region, international experts, NGOs, etc.): 6 persons
- GEF Agencies
- Partners, donors
- Ministry of Environment, Gabon

## Background

- The Replenishment of the GEF was celebrated in Danang, Vietnam, on June 25-29 2018, at a height of \$4.061 billion for the GEF7 period (July 2018-June 2022). It is a significant support from the International community and a recognition to the Global Environment Facility to protect the future of the planet and human well-being. The approved programming documents include an Impact Program on Sustainable Forest Management, with a focus on three different geographies, including the Congo Basin (<http://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-7-programming-directions>).
- The novelty of the GEF7 Impact Program on Sustainable Forest Management resides in the aim to maintain the ecological integrity of entire biomes by concentrating efforts, focus, and investments, as well as ensuring strong regional cross-border coordination. Past SFM investments were often isolated and mainly focused on integrating SFM principles in land management projects at the project scale only. The SFM IP will address the drivers of forest loss and degradation through strategies aimed at creating a better enabling environment for forest governance; supporting rational land-use planning across mixed-use landscapes.
- In the programming documents, a diagnosis was established about the destruction and degradation of forests to introduce the notion of a regional and integrated program for the Congo Basin:
  - Several interrelated factors drive deforestation and degradation in the Congo Basin. Deforestation rates are still low in the Congo Basin, but forest degradation is pervasive; the main drivers are small-scale agriculture (subsistence) and harvesting of fuelwood.
  - The development of new infrastructure, industrial agriculture, and mining, are increasing at a high rate and currently intact forests are seriously threatened in the near-term.
  - The direct causes of declines to emblematic species such as primates and elephants are strongly linked to poaching and other changes in land use, most notably clearing of forests for farming and infrastructure development.
  - Challenges associated with extreme poverty and tensions between local people and protected area management strategies add to the complexity.
- A High-Level Round Table on the Congo Basin, was organized in Danang on June 28, 2018, with three Ministers from the region, renowned specialists on biodiversity, ecology, forest dependent people, and private sector. The following messages and perspectives were identified to look ahead:
  - It is essential to articulate the sectoral plans for development in the Congo Basin countries. Economic plans are often dependent on oil, mining, timber, agroindustry sectors. For the Congo Basin to be managed sustainably, countries need to include ecosystem values in planning and decision-making processes.
  - It is key to involve communities in these valuations. For instance, payment for ecosystem services programs need to engage with local communities and indigenous people.
  - Additionally, SFM efforts need to coordinate actions with initiatives aiming to tackle some emerging problems that go beyond the environmental field such as poaching, trafficking, and illegal timber. These challenges are rooted into the conditions of fragility, violence, and conflict present in the region, as well as dependent on international networks of organized crime.

- Finally, there is an urgent need for long term monitoring and understanding of Congo Basin ecosystems and promoting science-based actions. Particularly, it is important to develop a better understanding of the ecosystem/people interactions and harnessing indigenous people knowledge to replicate solutions and strengthening bottom up approaches.

([http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF%20Assembly\\_Amazon%20Factsheet\\_9.4.18.pdf](http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF%20Assembly_Amazon%20Factsheet_9.4.18.pdf)).

### **Proposed format for the Regional Consultation**

- The templates for the Expressions of Interest (Eoi) to candidate to the Impact Programs were sent to the GEF OFP on November 15, 2018. It is expected that the GEF FOP exchange with the concerned sectors and GEF Agencies to have an Eoi ready to send by the end of January. This regional consultation will provide the opportunity to discuss the expressions of interest with countries to have access to the Congo Basin Impact Program.
- Presentations on GEF7, the Impact Programmes, and the Congo Basin Program will be given by experts, the GEF Secretariat, and UN Environment, the Lead Agency: Land-use planning/ ecological corridors; Forests/carbon/ecosystem services/evolution/climate change; global Important biodiversity/poaching/trafficking; local communities/Forest dependent communities/private sector.
- A discussion will be facilitated by the GEF Secretariat (Jean-Marc Sinnassamy, Coordinator for the Congo Basin Program, Pascal Martinez, Sr Environmental Expert, and Susan Waithaka, Country Officer).

**Arrival the day before (Wednesday, January 16, 2019)**

	<b>Jour 1, morning</b>	<b>Modalities</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
8.00	Registration		Ministry of Environment, Gabon
8.30	<b>Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome by the host country, 5'</li> <li>• One country representing the GEF OFP from the five invited countries, 5'</li> <li>• GEF Secretariat, 5'</li> <li>• Official Opening of the Regional Consultation by the Minister for the Environment, or its representative, 15'</li> </ul>	Protocol	Ministry of Environment, Yannick Ongonwou-Sonnet Antonio Micha Ondo, Equatorial Guinea Jean-Marc Sinnassamy Minister or his representative
9.00-9.15	<b>Group photo</b>		
9.15 - 10.30	<b>Setting the scene</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Film on Gabon and the Nature Agency, 15'</li> <li>• The GEF: back to the basics: mandate, key features (conventions, incremental reasoning, cofinancing, Global Environment benefits/indicators, GEF Agencies): 30'</li> <li>• GEF7 Vision, the Impact Programs, the Congo Basin Program, Lessons from the past and elsewhere (Amazon, programs): 30'</li> </ul>		GEF Secretariat  Susan Waithaka  Pascal Martinez
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	Protocol	
11.00 - 13.00	<b>Workstream 1: The GEF programmatic approach: complementarity between the regional component and the national projects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introducing the vision of the program: Towards ecological corridors: coherence &amp; structure of the program, national vs. regional project, additional themes, 15'</li> </ul>	Technical Interventions & Discussions	Chair: Democratic republic of Congo Rapporteur: Central Africa Republic Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the components of the program and the outlines of the regional component, UNEP: 15'</li> <li>• Explaining the Expression of Interest Template: The different sections, 30', step by step GEF Secretariat</li> <li>• Discussions, 60'</li> </ul>		<p>Andre Toham</p> <p>Pascal Martinez</p>
13.00- 14.00	Lunch		
14.00 – 16.00	<p><b>Workstream 2: Workshop per country</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting room with 8 set up (6 countries, regional partners, Agencies): The GEFSEC, UNEP, experts, and partners are sitting 15 minutes with each country + coffee break</li> <li>- Cameroon,</li> <li>- Central Africa Republic</li> <li>- Democratic Republic of Congo</li> <li>- Equatorial Guinea</li> <li>- Gabon</li> <li>- Republic of Congo</li> </ul> <p>Synthesis: key issues to follow up: 15'</p>		<p>Chair: Central Africa republic</p> <p>Rapporteur: Equatorial Guinea</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat will sit with each country to examine the draft Eol, respond questions and provide guidance</p>
16.00- 17.30	<p><b>Workstream 3: Partnerships, baseline &amp; cofinancing opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Ebony Project, Taylor Guitars, 15'</li> <li>- ECCAS: Development Corridors, PAFCO: 10'</li> <li>- COMIFAC: 10'</li> <li>- CEFDHAC: 10'</li> <li>- OFAC: 10'</li> <li>- REPALEAC: 10'</li> <li>- European Union financed projects: portfolio, lessons: 10''</li> <li>- Bilateral Partners</li> <li>- GEF Agencies: 5mn each</li> </ul>		<p>Chair: Equatorial Guinea</p> <p>Rapporteur: republic of Congo</p> <p>Matt Lebreton</p> <p>Honore Tabuna</p> <p>Gervais Itsoua Madzous</p> <p>Louis Roger ESSOLA ETOA</p> <p>Gervais Itsoua Madzous</p> <p>Joseph Mukumo</p> <p>Romain Calaque</p> <p>Bernadette Edoa-Wandja (GIZ)</p> <p>GEF Agences du FEM</p>
17.45	Break		

18.30	Reception		GEF Secretariat
20.00	Free Dinner		

	<b>Day 2</b>		
8.30	Restitution from the previous day; presentation of the agenda of the day		
8.45 – 10.30	<p><b>Workstream 4: Baseline information on the components “Land use planning” and “biodiversity”:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecosystem services and land-use planning: regional vision by COMIFAC and OFAC; 15’</li> <li>• Natural capital accounting work and integration into land use planning, 15’</li> <li>• Integration of ecosystem services in land-use planning: Ngoyla Mintom (Cameroon): 15’</li> <li>• Fight against wildlife poaching and trafficking: Feedback from country-based experience: Conservation Justice/Eagle Network/ALEFI, 15’</li> </ul> <p>Tour de table and discussions with countries: 45’</p>		<p>Chair: Republic of Congo Rapporteur: Cameroon Gervais Itsoua Madzous</p> <p>Adamou Bouhari</p> <p>Gilles Etoga</p> <p>Luc Mathot</p>
10.30-10.45	Coffee-break		
10.45-12.30	<p><b>Workstream 4: Sustainable NTPF value chains: Local communities, forest dependent people, and the private sector in the Congo Basin:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REPALEAC, Network of Local Communities and Indigenous People about their strategy: implications at regional and national level; role of grant mechanisms 15’</li> <li>• Private Sector: Constraints and opportunities for the emergence of the private sector in the field of NTPF (legal, regulatory framework, access to</li> </ul>		<p>Chair: Cameroon Rapporteur: Gabon</p> <p>Joseph Mutumo</p> <p>Cécile Carlier, I&amp;P</p>

	<p>markets, value chains, business model, access to finance...) 15'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of a sustainable NTPF value chain</li> <li>• Discussions: 45'</li> </ul>		Representatives of IPLC and SGP
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch		
13.30 – 14.30	<p><b>Country Workshop: Follow up of discussion on the Eol</b></p> <p>10 mn per country, discussions with GEFSEC, GEF Agencies, partners.</p>		
14.30-16.00	<p>Catalyzing additional issues to the Congo Basin Program: Discussion on the <b>Congo river, Chemical &amp; Waste</b> issues (notably mercury), <b>SGP, and LDCF/adaptation</b></p>		<p>Jean-Marc Sinnassamy GEFSEC &amp; UNEP Marie-Laure Mpeck Nyemeck</p>
16.00 – 16.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observations from UN Environment, 15'</li> <li>• Conclusions from the Regional consultation (focus on the key-points), GEF Secretariat, 15'</li> </ul>		<p>Chair: Gabon Rapporteur: Equatorial Guinea</p>
16.30 – 17.00	<p>Closing session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A word from the GEF Secretariat 5'</li> <li>• A word from COMIFAC, 5'</li> <li>• Closing from the Host country, 5'</li> </ul>		<p>Susan Waitthaka Gervais Itsoua Madzous Ministry of Environment</p>