



## Central African Forests Commission

A regional dimension to the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems

# Annual Report

2013





COMIFAC, the Central African Forests Commission, is an international organization recognized for its role of sub-regional integration in matters of conservation and concerted and sustainable management of forest ecosystems. It is one of the institutions around the globe working to promote the rights of peoples to rely on forest resources to support their economic and social development efforts.

COMIFAC was born out of the materialization of commitments made in March 1999, enshrined in the “Yaounde Declaration” by Central African Heads of State. It counts ten member countries within the sub-region which share a common natural heritage. The organization works to make Central Africa’s voice better heard and defend its positions in fora which debate forestry and environmental issues.

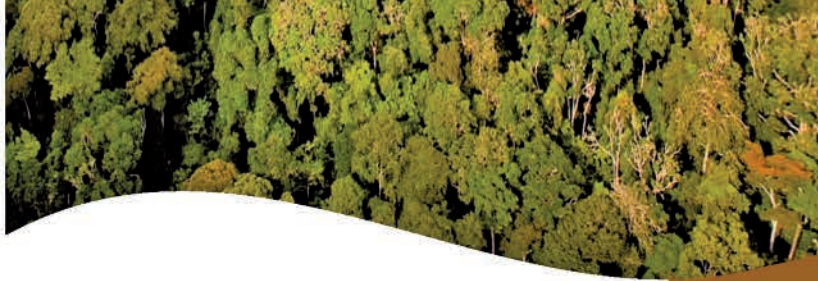
COMIFAC also daily works to ensure that Central African countries are equipped with and implement harmonized forestry and environmental policies with a view to conservation and sustainable management of forest resources.

## **Our vision**

The Central African States sustainably manage their forest resources in a concerted manner for the well-being of their populations, for the conservation of biological diversity and the preservation of the global environment.

## **Our mandate**

To steer, harmonise and monitor forest and environmental policies in Central Africa.



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# Message of the Acting President of COMIFAC

Each passing year comes with its share of challenges brought on by desertification and climate change. Soils are increasingly deteriorating, natural resources productivity has been curtailed by creeping desertification and the vagaries of climate warming, Lake Chad has also seen its productivity decline over the years as its size progressively shrinks.

In the face of these scourges which result in often irreversible damage with evident ramifications for the social and economic progress of our countries, we must arise in a spirit of solidarity to intensify our efforts and better coordinate our interventions to enable the Central African peoples to cope better and improve their living conditions.

“The Convergence Plan review process initiated in 2010 was accelerated in 2013 driven by the major concern of providing the sub-region with a Convergence Plan that takes into account national priorities and emerging issues”

To this end, it is my pleasure to welcome the holding on African soil of the eleventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Windhoek, Namibia in September 2013. The strong turnout of the subregion's countries accompanied by the Central African Forests Commission bears witness to the subregion's solidarity in defending its common positions during negotiations around this vital issue.



Thus, COMIFAC has acquired robust experience over the years not only in international dialogue but also in sub regional integration for the conservation and sustainable

use of forest and wildlife resources. It was on the strength of its mandate that it launched the Convergence Plan review process in 2010 which shifted to higher gear in 2013 with national and subregional consultations conducted in a participatory, iterative and inclusive manner. The overriding concern was to provide the sub region with a revised Convergence Plan that takes into account national and sub regional priorities.

For its part, the Acting Presidency of COMIFAC currently occupied by the Republic of Chad set out to implement its roadmap elaborated in early 2013. Furthermore, the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat has continued to fulfil its responsibilities of coordinating fifteen subregional projects and programmes including: PACEBCo, the REDD+, TRIDOM and MRV projects, etc.

It is worth noting that all these actions and many others carried out in 2013 were possible thanks to contributions from member countries and multifaceted support of partners. This report showcases COMIFAC's achievements in the implementation of the Executive Secretariat's Annual Work Plan 2013 with result attainment rates estimated at 70 percent which reflects COMIFAC's strong performance.

These achievements should not however obscure the persistent financial challenges and human resource shortages the institution has to grapple with.

**MAHAMAT ISSA HALIKIMI**

Minister of the Environment and Fisheries of Chad  
Acting President of COMIFAC

# COMIFAC's *Priorities*

To successfully implement its Annual Work Plan 2013, the Executive Secretariat sets out the priorities which would guide its actions throughout the year. Far from being

the only areas of intervention, the priorities form part of a range of key areas which COMIFAC will be focusing on.

## 1 Organisation of statutory meetings

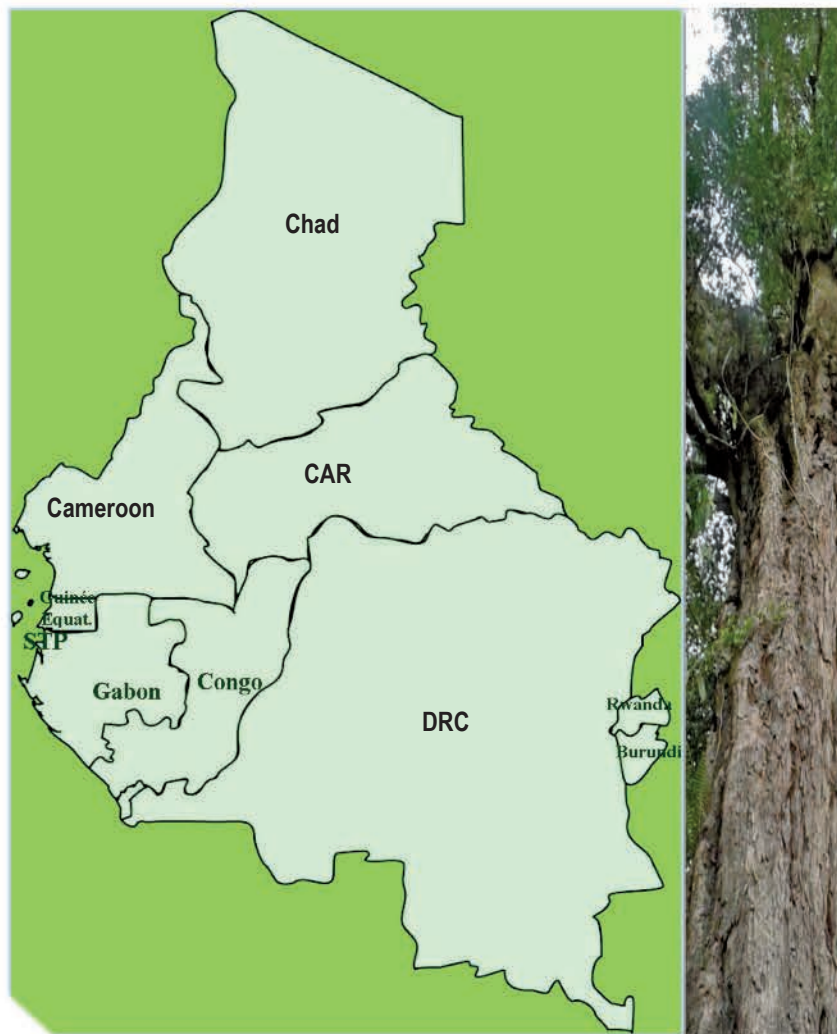
The Summit of Heads of State and of Government defines the institution's policies with a view to implementing the commitments set forth in article 1, Chapter 1 of the Treaty. The Executive Secretariat is actively preparing for the third Summit as well as regular meetings of the Council of Ministers.

## 2 Continued review of the Convergence Plan

The Convergence Plan review process which was launched in 2010, moved steadily on towards the end goal of providing the sub-region with a strategic action plan incorporating emerging issues as well as national priorities.

## 3 Operationalisation of COMIFAC monitoring and evaluation system

The idea is for COMIFAC to develop a monitoring and evaluation system that will provide all stakeholders with real-time information on the performance of the Convergence Plan.



#### 4 Organisation of thematic working group meetings

The national focal points of international conventions (Climate, Biodiversity, the fight against desertification) meet within working groups to prepare the countries for international negotiations and monitor implementation of respective conventions at national level.



#### 5 Supporting DFAC and CEFDHAC

By enlisting support from partners, COMIFAC keeps OFAC operational and enables CEFDHAC to pursue its revitalisation process in order to fulfil its role as a platform for multi-stakeholder consultation.



#### 6 Coordinating implementation of programmes and projects

The Executive Secretariat continues to fulfil its duties of coordinating subregional projects and programmes, including: PACEBCo, REDD+, TRIDOM, MRV, and REDD-PAC Projects, Certified Logging Enhancement Programme, etc.



#### 7 Raising countries' awareness of mandatory contributions and the financing arrangements

COMIFAC operates on the mandatory contributions of member countries. The institution has a financing arrangement whose operationalisation is crucial for COMIFAC's sustainability and for successful implementation of the Convergence Plan.



#### 8 Participation in international conferences and regional meetings

COMIFAC accompanies its member countries to all international fora where forestry and environmental issues are discussed. The institution facilitates regional consultations to devise common and concerted positions.



# *Member countries and partners* **increasingly trust us**

**T**he achievements COMIFAC has garnered over the years are the fruit of multiple efforts made.

Despite its limited human, material and financial resources, the institution was able to capitalise several gains.

The vibrancy it demonstrated was rewarded with achievements on a regional and international scale, in areas such as international dialogue on the forestry and environmental sector, coordinating implementation of the Convergence Plan, raising COMIFAC's profile, enhancing knowledge of forest cover dynamics, statutory meetings, etc.

It is now widely acknowledged that the institution has bolstered the trust placed in it by its member countries and partners.

COMIFAC can now leverage the experience gleaned over the years. It boasts a proven track record in the areas of advocacy/lobbying, technical capacity building and consultant support to Member countries, making COMIFAC a reference at the sub-regional level.

COMIFAC's reach and visibility have earned it recognition from the U.S. authorities who have agreed to enter a direct agreement with the institution by awarding it a grant as part of phase III of the Central African Regional Programme for Environment (CARPE) programme. COMIFAC thus becomes the second intergovernmental agency after the African Union Commission to receive direct support from the U.S. government. This success should not obscure the challenges and gaps COMIFAC faces. They include the recurrent issue of inadequate funding which, as always, disrupts the institution's operations.



# Our work in 2013



In 2013, the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat pursuant to its missions, coordinated the implementation of COMIFAC's activities and implemented the decisions of the Council of Ministers in charge of Forestry and the Environment.

A host of actions were successfully completed within the scope of the Annual Work Plan 2013 thanks to the COMIFAC member countries' contributions coupled with multifaceted support from development partners.

As in previous years, the achievements covered the following components: (i) Planning, monitoring and evaluating implementation of the Convergence Plan; (ii) Communication, sub-regional consultation and capacity building; (iii) International dialogue on forests and the environment and promotion of COMIFAC ; (iv) Coordinating implementation of the Convergence Plan and partnerships; and lastly, (v) statutory meetings of COMIFAC.

For more information on COMIFAC's work and achievements, one useful link: [www.comifac.org](http://www.comifac.org)

"If COMIFAC has been relentless in raising the alarm and seeking guidance from Heads of State and Government, it is because our forests are shrinking and increasingly less productive (...) Fortunately, similar to many other organisations working in these sectors, COMIFAC is in an ongoing quest for solutions to provide balance to our forests whose role in maintaining biodiversity is widely recognised."



H.E. Mr. Joseph DJIRAMGAR DADNADJI,  
Prime Minister, Republic of Chad, November 2013



Group photograph of sub-regional validation workshop on the methodological tools and structure of the revised Convergence Plan. Douala, 21-22 November 2013



Raymond MBITIKON,  
Executive Secretary, COMIFAC  
Douala, November 2013

**“I would like to express my satisfaction with all the strides we are making after the two-year waiting period which followed the decision of the Council of Ministers to review the COMIFAC Convergence Plan”**



Deliberations at the subregional validation workshop on the methodological tools and structure of the revised Convergence Plan. Douala, 21-22 November 2013



# Working towards transparent and effective implementation of the Convergence Plan

The forestry and environmental sector is a vibrant one, marked by fast-paced and ever-growing change at international level. The changes require planning frameworks to be adapted to keep up with developments in the sector, to integrate newly emerging topics such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), climate change mitigation, Access to Genetic Resources and sharing of Benefits arising from their use (ABS), and also monitor their implementation.

## Review of the sub-regional Convergence Plan:

 An inclusive, iterative and multi-stakeholder process

“ Provide the sub-region with a revised Convergence Plan with a strategic thrust, developed using the results-based approach, through a process that takes into account emerging issues as well as national and sub-regional priorities. ”

In response to ongoing changes in the forestry and environmental sector, COMIFAC has since 2010 launched a review of its Convergence Plan. The process picked up speed in 2013 with the finalisation of recruitment of consultants to be tasked with the review.

An Ad hoc Oversight Committee chaired by the Executive Secretary was equally set up. So far, following validation of the methodological approach, a discussion workshop on a study of the current and potential use of the Convergence Plan has been held in Kinshasa (DRC), and took place from 17 to 18 October 2013. This workshop was followed by the sub-regional validation workshop on the methodological tools and structure of the revised Convergence Plan, held in Douala (Cameroon) from 21 to 22 November 2013.

Consultations are underway to collect proposals on improvements to the Convergence Plan and enhance preparations for national workshops centred on the Plan.

It should be noted that the funding for this process is derived from the following partners' contributions: GIZ, IUCN through the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF), the African Development Bank (ADB) through PACEBCo and the World Bank (WB) through the MSP project.



Highlights of sub regional meetings held as part of the Convergence Plan review process

“The Convergence Plan monitoring platform, a decision-making tool to provide all stakeholders with real-time information on the performance of the Convergence Plan.”



## Monitoring and evaluation platform:

To enhance knowledge on the performance of the Convergence Plan



COMIFAC will soon acquire an up-to-date database on monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the Convergence Plan. The task of developing this operational online database was entrusted to a firm hired in June 2013 with financial assistance from the WB/MSP project. The database will provide COMIFAC, its stakeholders, beneficiaries and partners with a comprehensive view of the results and impacts of implementation of the Convergence Plan at both regional and national levels.

A series of interviews conducted by the firm in July and August 2013 led to the production of technical specifications on the target system. This intermediate deliverable devised by the consultant was reviewed and then validated in September 2013. The next steps in the project include: design of the platform model, developing prototypes of the selected scenario, building the platform, delivery, set up and training.

Moreover, in 2013 the Executive Secretariat completed the status report on COMIFAC's monitoring and evaluation system. Drawing on the assessment, the report clearly highlights all the strengths and also the weaknesses of the monitoring and evaluation system in its current operating format within the Executive Secretariat.

Following the study, the Executive Secretariat began drafting the Procedure Manual on COMIFAC's results-based monitoring and evaluation system.

### Why should COMIFAC have a monitoring and evaluation platform?

The platform for monitoring and evaluating implementation of the Convergence Plan is a dashboard designed to provide an online information system that allows for:

- Collection and saving of information from national and sub-regional activity charts;
- Organisation of information on strategic areas and other components of the results chain of the new Convergence Plan;
- Definition and production of various indicators;
- Use of communication and collaboration tools based on measurements/validation of various indicators;
- Production of reliable and detailed information: status reports;
- Dissemination of information to relevant targets, while maintaining confidentiality of predefined information;
- Secure management of access to the platform and data.



## Communication and consultation: at the heart of our intervention strategies

Revised in 2011, COMIFAC's communication plan was fully implemented in 2013. Activities conducted this year were mostly geared towards publishing an information bulletin and Newsletters, updating the website, continued development of the web portal and populating of COMIFAC's website and Facebook page.

### The Web Portal

#### Showcasing information and exchanges

“  
The Convergence Plan monitoring platform, a decision-making tool to provide all stakeholders with real-time information on the performance of the Convergence Plan.”

The web portal is one of COMIFAC's communication tools devoted to providing the public with integrated information. The development of such a portal was assigned to a consulting firm recruited in June 2013. The project launch meeting was held in June 2013, followed by consultations which helped define deliverables such as: the technical specifications for developing the tool, proposals on the web design, the audit report on the existing version and needs assessment.

It should be recalled that the web portal will enable COMIFAC to ease exchanges between the institution and various stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Convergence Plan, on the one hand, and on the other hand, provide the general public and other stakeholders with the wide range of information emerging from the Forestry and Environmental sector. Pending operationalisation of the web portal, the Executive Secretariat continues to populate the COMIFAC website ([www.comifac.org](http://www.comifac.org)) and Facebook page.



Chadian Minister being interviewed about COMIFAC

### Communication material:

#### to highlight our achievements



COMIFAC exhibition stand

In 2013, communication material was produced and disseminated as is customary every year in order to burnish COMIFAC's profile. They included banners and flash drives handed to the COMIFAC National Coordinating bodies of member countries, tee-shirts emblazoned with the COMIFAC logo, distributed on Labour Day, 1st May 2013.

In addition, in March and December 2013, COMIFAC published the eleventh and twelfth issues of its newsletter "COMIFAC News". The topics addressed in these publications touched respectively on poaching in the Congo Basin, land tenure and sustainable management in the Congo Basin. In addition to the newsletter, the Executive Secretariat continued to publish quarterly executive summaries and newsletters on the institution's monthly activities.



## Consultations organised:

 To develop common and concerted positions

**F**aithful to their missions, the thematic working groups have been striving since their inception to assist COMIFAC member countries in implementing international conventions on the environment, notably through sub-regional consultations held on a frequent basis to devise common and concerted positions ahead of international negotiations, or to strengthen stakeholder capacity.

“

Through its thematic working groups, COMIFAC assists member countries in capacity building, forest governance, and during international negotiations aimed at ensuring implementation of environmental conventions

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As part of their missions, the working groups held the following consultations in 2013 :

- the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth meetings of the Central African Biodiversity Working Group (GTBAC) held respectively from 29 to 31 January 2013 in Sao Tomé and Principe, from 2 to 5 July 2013 in N'Djamena (Chad) and from 26 to 29 November 2013 in Malabo (Equatorial Guinea). During the meetings, the 2013 roadmap was evaluated and adopted, and the progress level of the following initiatives reported: the revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and drafting of Fifth CBD Reports.
- the second meeting of the Sub-working Group on Protected Areas and Wildlife in Central Africa (SGTAPFS2) held from 25 to 27 February 2014 in Libreville (Gabon).
- two preparatory meetings of the Central African Climate Change Working Group, held respectively from 12 to 13 March 2013 in Libreville (Gabon), to prepare the submissions of COMIFAC countries on the stakes of climate change negotiations, and from 16 to 19 September 2013 in Douala (Cameroon), in preparation for the nineteenth Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention held from 11 to 22 November in Warsaw (Poland). A submission of views of COMIFAC countries on the Durban platform was prepared.
- the sixth and seventh meetings of the Working Group on the Fight Against Desertification in Central Africa held respectively from 26 to 28 March 2013 in Brazzaville (Congo) in preparation for the sub-region's participation in the eleventh session of the Committee for the review of the Implementation of the UNCCD (CRIC 11) held in April 2013 in Bonn, and from 2 to 4 September 2013 in Kinshasa (DRC) to develop common and concerted positions for the eleventh Conference of the Parties to the CCD held in Windhoek (Namibia) in late September 2013.



GTBAC meeting

### Forest Governance Working Group goes operational

The Central African Forest Governance Working Group (GTGF) was officially launched during a workshop which took place on 23 and 24 October 2013 in Brazzaville. The Working Group was established by the Executive Secretariat to help the countries better grasp the concepts, principles and requirements associated with good forest governance, a vital prerequisite to sustainable management. At the end of the workshop, the Group's Letter of Engagement was validated by the participants and later adopted by the COMIFAC ministers in November 2013.



# ofac : A forest observatory for pooling of knowledge

**A** decision-making tool, the Observatoire des Forêts d’Afrique Centrale (Forest Observatory for Central Africa) currently provides the sub-region and partners, through its publications and database, with key elements for providing guidance and knowledge sharing for better governance and sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

In 2013, the OFAC regional unit within COMIFAC received multidimensional support from partners for the launch of its operations

“ **OFAC’s overall objective fits squarely in the context of implementation of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan aimed at enhancing the role of natural resources in reducing poverty among local populations.** ”

In addition to the support it receives from the European Union through the CEOFAC project, the OFAC regional unit equally enjoys funding from African Development Bank (AfDB) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) through PACEBCo programme. The assistance provided through PACEBCo is geared towards strengthening national and regional capacities for collecting and encoding OFAC monitoring data on one hand, and on the other hand, supporting the organization and functioning of the Observatory’s regional unit.

As part of GEF/World Bank support delivered through the REDD+ project, and ADB/CBFF/FAO assistance provided through the MRV project, the Observatory was provided with an expert who is a member of the platform of initiatives (OFAC, MRV, REDD+) for developing and managing the REDD+ database. Within the ambit of the platform, a form on the enhancement of the OFAC database was developed and forwarded to the projects for their input and to find ways of creating linkages. Lastly, it should be noted that the three initiatives also aim to enhance synergies between the websites of the aforementioned initiatives.

### Coming soon: Fourth « State of the Forests 2013 » report

Drafting of the fourth State of the Forests report (EDF 2013) which began in 2011 is nearing completion. In fact, the validation workshop for the report was held from 21 to 22 March 2013 in Douala. As of now, all chapters of the report have been finalised. Proofreading and translation of the document have been completed. The digital version of the report will be published soon on OFAC’s website.





ESTADO DE SÃO PAULO  
MUNICÍPIO DE SÃO CARLOS  
RUA DE SÃO CARLOS, 100



# COMIFAC National Coordinating Bodies:

## Our country liaisons receiving training



The COMIFAC National Coordinating Bodies (CNC) were established in the countries to act as linkages for the Executive Secretariat in its mission of monitoring, coordinating the implementation of the Convergence Plan and as part of their mandate, to lead country level fora bringing together stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems. In 2013, their capacities were strengthened in various areas.



Group photo and practicals conducted during the CNCs monitoring and evaluation capacity building workshop

### Missions of COMIFAC National Coordinators

As part of their mandate and in accordance with the resolutions of the November 2006 Council of Ministers held in Mongomo, Equatorial Guinea, the COMIFAC National Coordinators have the following missions:

- ▶ Advise national policy makers notably the Government, Parliament and other major state agencies on the COMIFAC process;
- ▶ Coordinate implementation of the Convergence Plan at national level and monitor the process at both national and sub-regional levels;
- ▶ Represent the Executive Secretariat at the national, sub-regional and international levels;
- ▶ Act as linkages between the Executive Secretariat and the member countries;
- ▶ Serve as an interface for the implementation of the Convergence Plan;
- ▶ Maintain networks with Focal Points of other initiatives;
- ▶ Provide secretarial services at national fora.

The COMIFAC National Coordinating Bodies (CNCs) received training in monitoring and evaluation during a sub-regional workshop hosted from 1 to 4 July 2013 in N'Djamena by the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat with technical and financial support from GIZ and JICA. The workshop aimed to foster exchanges between the CNCs and the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat, by helping the CNCs gain a better understanding of their missions and imparting in-depth knowledge of programming and monitoring tools.

One of the event's highlights was the three-hundred (300) tree-planting ceremony in the Green Belt on the outskirts of the city of N'Djamena, organized by the Executive Secretariat. The ceremony was placed under the distinguished patronage of the Chadian Minister of the Environment and Fisheries also serving as Acting President of COMIFAC and was designed to assist the Chadian government in its efforts to combat desertification and climate change.

A second CNC consultation workshop was held in Kinshasa (DRC) from 14 to 16 October 2013. It provided an opportunity for the participants to assess the 2013 Roadmap of the CNCs, finalise their AWP 2014 and discuss the advocacy strategy for resource mobilisation.

Lastly, it is noteworthy that the World Bank as part of the mid-term review of the MSP project, agreed to assign USD 90,000 to support the CNCs in building communication skills. Based on needs expressed by the CNCs, the Executive Secretariat is overseeing the acquisition of the requisite equipment.



Highlights of the CNCs monitoring and evaluation capacity building workshop



## forum for discussion, debate and proposals

**C**EFDHAC, a multi-stakeholder process for the promotion of conservation and sustainable development of Central African forests is in charge of managing consultation processes within the sub-regional forum and national fora and their specialised committees. As a partner of COMIFAC, this multi-stakeholder platform and its affiliated networks received support in 2013 for their functioning and missions.



Group photograph during a meeting of CEFDHAC's CPR in Kigali (Rwanda)

Based on a partnership agreement signed with ECCAS, CEFDHAC receives funds for the implementation of the PACEB Co Support Project for civil society participation through national and subregional fora for sustainable management of Central African Forest ecosystems. The funding was particularly geared towards supporting youth, women, indigenous peoples and parliamentary networks in their awareness-raising activities and engagement with forestry issues.

Thus in 2013, the funds served to establish and operationalise the CEFDHAC technical secretariat, provide computer equipment to the networks and the ten national CEFDHAC fora and revitalise and organise three national fora (Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Chad).

### CEFDHAC Vision

**“A vibrant discussion forum fostering multi-stakeholder consultation with a view to promoting stakeholder ownership of the process of sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems.”**

In addition to these facilities, the women (REFADD), parliamentarian (REPAR) and indigenous peoples (REPALEAC) networks received GIZ support to carry out the following activities under the aegis of the Executive Secretariat:

- Training of REFADD members on the process “Access and sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources (ABS)” held from 21st to 22nd February 2013 in Brazzaville (Congo).
- Third general assembly of REPALEAC held from 14 to 16 January 2013 in Brazzaville, and training on the REDD+ mechanisms and process.
- Awareness-raising and reflection workshop on ABS for REPAR members held from 2 to 4 April 2013 in Bujumbura, Burundi.



# International dialogue: ensuring broader stakeholder participation in decision-making

In 2013, a number of regional and international meetings were held in which forestry and environmental issues were actively debated. As in previous years, COMIFAC played an active role during all negotiations around these environmental issues, due to its continued participation in the events.

## Making Central Africa's voice heard at international meetings

“

The continued participation of Central African countries in international conferences alongside COMIFAC is a perfect illustration of the sub-region's unwavering commitment to defending its common positions.

”

COMIFAC was present alongside its member countries at the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Climate Convention and the ninth COP session serving as the meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held from 11 to 22 November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland. The institution seized the opportunity to hold a side event under the theme: “Progress and lessons learnt from biomass measurement devices and forest monitoring systems in the context of mitigation and adaptation in the Congo Basin.”

In addition to this event, the institution took an active part in COP 11 to the Convention to Combat Desertification held in Windhoek, Namibia from 16 to 27 September 2013. On the sidelines of the Conference, COMIFAC, the Global Mechanism, the UNCCD Secretariat and GIZ organised a side event entitled: “Forests and Desertification, land degradation and drought: an opportunity to implement the UNCCD”.

It should be noted furthermore that COMIFAC jointly organised or participated in other meetings such as:



- the International Workshop to promote understanding of Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) FLEGT held from 30 to 31 October 2013 in Beijing (China) ;
- the International Forum on sustainable development of the wood industry in Congo Basin countries held from 21 to 22 October 2013 in Brazzaville (Congo) ;
- the Regional Conference on drivers of deforestation in the Congo Basin held from 15 to 16 May 2013 in Kinshasa (DRC) ;
- the international Conference on forests for food security and nutrition held from 13 to 15 May 2013 in Rome (Italy) ;
- the twelfth CBFP Meeting of Partners held from 18 to 20 March 2013 in Douala (Cameroon) ;
- the thirteenth Regional Dialogue on forests, governance and climate change held from 5 to 7 March 2013 in Yaounde (Cameroon).



 **Our target : The implementation of activities is coordinated and COMIFAC is operational**

# Coordinating implementation of Convergence Plan: Towards a better synergy of efforts

In 2013, the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat continued to fulfil its duties of coordinating sub-regional initiatives, projects and programmes. To this end, it initiated or carried out various actions including: assisting the countries in integrating guidelines, studies, holding meetings of decision-making bodies (steering committees, training sessions and field visits).

## Support tools for land allocation and use in forests, soon to be operational

### Land management planning guides validated

In 2013, the Central African countries acquired four land management planning guides which were validated during a sub-regional workshop hosted by COMIFAC from 7 to 8 May 2013 in Douala, Cameroon with support from technical and financial partners (USFS, CARPE, USAID).

With these guides, the countries in the sub-region are equipped with key tools to guide them in choosing appropriate solutions to address recurrent land use conflicts, and thus better manage the wealth of natural resources they harbour. They include the following guides : (i) Integrated landscape management guide ; (ii) Protected area management planning guide; (iii) Community-based natural resources management area planning guide; (iv) Extractive zone planning guide.

In addition to validating the guides, the Douala workshop came up with recommendations including a call for the guides to be taken into account in the ongoing review of national laws across various sectors as well as in partnerships with actors in these sectors (mines, hydrocarbons, road infrastructure, agriculture, etc.).



Denis KOULAGNA  
Secretary General, Ministry of Forestry and  
Wildlife Cameroon, Douala, May 2013

### Forest land use atlas under finalisation

The COMIFAC Executive Secretariat is a recipient of GIZ support for the implementation of a project aimed at developing a forest atlas for land use in Central Africa. The following results were obtained as part of the project in 2013: national workshops were held to identify and validate key themes and features surrounding land use and organisation, data was collected for modelling of the atlas and a draft version of the map platform was developed.

**“The guides we have just validated come at a timely moment when most COMIFAC countries are engaged in the process of land management planning. They will thus play a welcome role in helping to address recurrent conflicts over land use and thus enhance the way we manage the wealth of natural resources our countries are endowed with”**



Meeting of COMIFAC ES with its partners and managers of sub-regional programmes and projects



## Fifteen projects and programmes we are coordinating

### PACEBCo Programme



Patrol vessel acquired by PACEBCo

The Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Programme (PACEBCo) receives ADB support through ADF funds and a contribution from ECCAS. Several actions were successfully conducted in 2013 through its different components. Special emphasis was placed on poverty reduction efforts under component 3 aimed at sustainably promoting the well being of populations.

Awareness campaigns centred on the Local Development Fund (LDF) were thus conducted, along with the launch of the first call for project proposals in May 2013 which resulted in the identification of 275 micro-projects for a total cost of three billion CFAF in the areas of income-generating activities, infrastructure and capacity building.

In addition to these gains, other activities carried out included: (i) Funding provided for 14 doctoral scholarships in Integrated management of tropical lands and 20 scholarships in wildlife development and management; (ii) Institutional support provided for the establishment of the CEFDHAC technical secretariat, computer equipment handed to national fora and networks affiliated with CEFDHAC ; (iii) A prospective analysis of the Congo Basin forest ecosystems' outlook for 2040 finalised with the Programme's support; (iv) Training provided in ecological monitoring, the fight against poaching, protection and use of biodiversity, and 52 local development plans for protected areas prepared; (v) Development of architectural plans and preparation of tender documents for the construction and equipping of multifunctional branch offices.

### REDD+ Project

Implementation of the regional project for enhancing institutional capacities on REDD+ is funded by GEF and executed by the World Bank. In 2013, steps were taken to finalise the recruitment of firms or consultants tasked with the implementation of various sub-components of the project. Thus, contracts were signed with five consultancies for the implementation of sub-component 1B aimed at promoting inclusive participation of actors in REDD+, sub-component 2A on the elaboration of allometric equations, sub-component 3A on promotion of REDD+ pilot projects and of sub-component 3A and especially of regional environmental and social assessment (RESA).

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, the project also helped build the countries' capacities, organise two sub-regional climate working group meetings respectively in March 2013 in Libreville and in September 2013 in Douala, a regional scientific workshop on allometric equations in Central Africa held from 2 to 5 April 2013 in Yaounde; (ii) a study trip to share experiences on the implementation of REDD+ pilot projects in the DRC.



Coordinator of REDD Regional Project

## MSP Project

The MSP Project receives funding from the GEF and is executed by the World Bank. The project aims to strengthen the coordination capacities of the Executive Secretariat. Its achievements in 2013 include: (i) The development of the monitoring and evaluation platform of the Convergence Plan and other sub-regional initiatives of COMIFAC ». The platform will be delivered in 2014 ; (ii) The construction of the COMIFAC intranet/internet web portal to be delivered in 2014 ; (iii) A study on capitalisation of experiences and good practices in implementation of the Convergence Plan; (iv) The process of acquiring equipment for the benefit of COMIFAC National Coordinating Bodies.



## MRV Project

The sub-regional project for capacity building on monitoring systems and national MRVs in the Congo Basin is supported financially by the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) and executed by FAO. In 2013, the project achieved the following : recruitment of staff in charge of implementing the project at sub-regional and national level, organisation of launch workshops in the ten COMIFAC countries, establishment of working groups on national monitoring systems in some countries, drawing up roadmaps to implement action plans for the deployment of national monitoring systems and MRVs, supporting the development of RPPs of the four countries (Chad, Rwanda, Burundi and Sao Tome and Principe) with the least progress on REDD+.

## PPECF Programme

The Certified Forest Enhancement Programme (PPECF) receives financial support from KfW and is executed by the GFA/DFS consortium. Activities conducted in 2013 within the scope of the programme focused on : (i) training on FSC certification for the benefit of the Group Rougier, PALLISCO and ALPICAM ; (iii) support provided to the GEF-UNEP-RFA project through training on forest certification in Congo; (iv) development of a database of "forest concession holders" in the Congo Basin; (v) a mission conducted to promote awareness of the Programme in forest concessions of countries involved in the Programme; (vi) training in low-impact tree felling (ONFI) for the benefit of concession holders, ALPICAM, PALLISCO and Rougier; (vii) launch of ONFI software programme, Go Monitor forest.





## TRIDOM Project

The TRIDOM project receives financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and is executed by UNOPS. Activities conducted in 2013 by the project were centred on : (i) finalisation and signing of the Anti Poaching Memorandum of Understanding (LAB) between Cameroon, Congo and Gabon ; (ii) implementation of activities under the Anti-Poaching action plan (LAB) 2013 which led to the organisation of awareness campaigns to sensitise local authorities on the LAB agreement between Cameroon, Congo and Gabon, the establishment of bi-national LAB brigades in order to conduct joint LAB patrols in the three countries, missions conducted to raise awareness and address the issue of transboundary poaching in the Ivindo-Djoua Rivers and the Congo, Gabon and Cameroon segments of the Avima Road; (iii) integration of data in the TRIDOM web site under construction; (iv) development of a monitoring and evaluation matrix to assess project impacts.

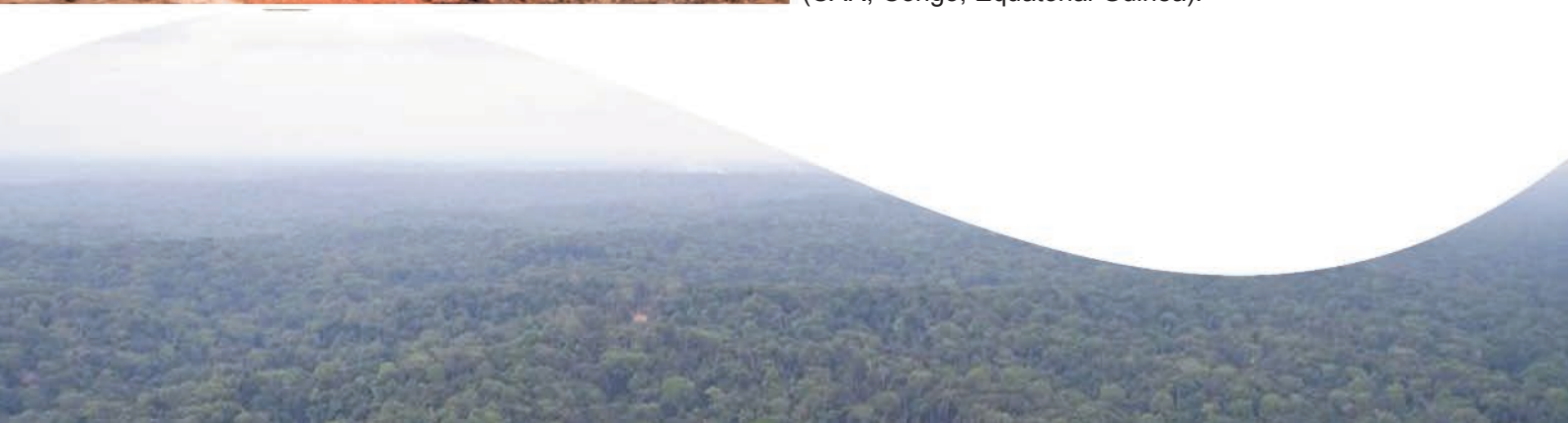
## REDD-PAC Project

The REDD-PAC project receives financial support from the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Nuclear Security (BMU). Placed under the general oversight of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and in partnership with the Brazilian Aerospace Institute (INPE), UNEP-WCMC and COMIFAC, the project achieved the following activities in 2013: recruitment of experts for the project at sub-regional level and in the four pilot countries (Cameroon, Congo, CAR, DRC), preparation of the report on the current status of land use policies in Central Africa, organisation of the information/training workshop on the REDD-PAC project.



## ARH-GDF BC Project

The “Harmonised Regional Approach to the Sustainable Management of Production Forests in the Congo Basin” Project is supported by GEF and UNEP. During the past year, the project conducted the following activities: (i) two studies, namely: Production of a glossary/lexicon of forestry terms in Central Africa and development of the strategy for the fight against logging in the Congo Basin; (ii) finalisation of the provisional version of the sub-regional strategy document on sustainable forest management; (iii) establishment of the project’s monitoring and evaluation system. In addition to these activities, the project equally conducted actions in the pilot countries (CAR, Congo, Equatorial Guinea).





## FTNS AI-GDF Project

In 2013, the following activities were conducted as part of the FTNS “institutional support to sustainable forest management, Congo, CAR component” Project: (i) Supporting the review and validation of the Lobeke National Park management plan. That of the Nouabalé Ndoki National Park is under elaboration; (ii) Bi-annual planning for the APDS (CAR) and PNNN (Congo) Parks; (iii) Design of a concept and roadmap for FTNS/TNS participation in the International Tourism Fair slated to hold in Berlin in 2015; (iv) Design and validation of a new logo and new graphic design for FTNS; (v) Ongoing construction of FTNS website.

## NTFP Project

The ADB backs the implementation of the “Enhancing the contribution on non timber forest products to food security in Central Africa” Project. The project which is also a recipient of a CBFF grant has an estimated budget of USD 4.23 million. It is executed by FAO under COMIFAC supervision and covers five Central African countries: Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe and Chad. The project aims to integrate COMIFAC’s Sub-regional Guidelines and principles of the right to food into national laws and strategies and to devise strategies for developing the NTFP sector. In this connection, the project seeks to establish an institutional framework that will enable local communities to truly benefit from NTFPs by lifting the obstacles to their sustainable management and marketing. In 2013, the main activity conducted under the project was the launch of the recruitment of the project management team.



## PEFOGRN, ITTO/JICA, GIZ Projects

The Central African Network of Forestry and Environmental Training Institutions (RIFFEAC) implements the PEFOGRN, ITTO/JICA and GIZ projects.

### ❖ Activities conducted under the PEFOGRN project:

(i) Finalising revision of training programmes, as well as organisation of workshops to validate and revise/harmonise these programmes ; (ii) Conducting the workshop to validate course outlines of the Research Masters in agroforestry of the Faculty of Agronomy and Agricultural Sciences (FASA) of the University of Dschang in Cameroon; (iii) The award by the Project of about twenty doctoral scholarships to students including ten for the University of Laval in Canada and ten others for African Universities; (iv) Funding of a project to provide about thirty Research Masters scholarships in three selected centres of excellence (ten in agroforestry at FASA in the University of Dschang in Cameroun, ten in Timber sciences at ENEF in Gabon, and ten in forest policies and governance at FSA in the University of Kinshasa) ; (v) Finalising the modernisation of training programmes; (vi) Strengthening infra-

structures in project beneficiary institutions through the construction and/or renovation of dormitories, auditoriums, etc. ; (vii) Acquisition of rolling stock for six university institutions in Central Africa is underway as part of the project. There are equally plans to acquire computer equipment as well as field and laboratory equipment.

### ❖ Activities conducted as part of the ITTO/JICA project:

(i) Development of six reference modules and training programmes (university training and technical training) in beneficiary institutions leaders of Thematic Working Groups (GTTs); (ii) Holding of a dozen technical validation workshops on the aforementioned modules and training programmes ; (iii) Supporting Project beneficiary training institutions by providing training and teaching equipment and material and improving existing infrastructure.

### ❖ Activities conducted as part of the GIZ project:

• Training institutions as part of continuous training programmes.

## Ensuring effective implementation of decisions taken by statutory bodies



“The onus is on each of our governments to work to build convergence in our efforts to protect our natural heritage. It is a matter of the survival not only of our local communities but also mankind as a whole, in light of the systematic ties that exist between planetary ecosystems.”

Joseph DJIRAMGAR DADNADJI,  
N'Djamena, November 2013

### **COMIFAC Ministers take important decisions**

COMIFAC's statutory texts provide that the Council of Ministers, the body in charge of decision-making, coordinating and supervising implementation of policies related to the conservation and sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems, shall meet in ordinary session once every two years. However extraordinary sessions of the Council may be convened between two ordinary sessions. Thus, the Council of COMIFAC Ministers held an extraordinary session on 8 November 2013 in N'Djamena, Chad.

The extraordinary session of the Council of COMIFAC Ministers was convened by the Acting President of COMIFAC with support from ECCAS, GIZ and the World Bank/GEF. It was preceded from 06 to 07 November 2013 by the Meeting of Experts.



Family photo of the extraordinary Minister's Council in November 2013 at Ndjama

At the close of the session, the ministers took key resolutions and formulated recommendations including : (i) approval of COMIFAC's financial and accounting audit report for the financial year 2012; (ii) approval of COMIFAC's positions on Climate Change negotiations at COP 19 held in Warsaw (Poland); (iii) approval of missions and organisation modalities of COMIFAC's Central African Forest Governance Working Group (GTGF); (iv) support the development of the Panafrican Forest Certification System (PAFC) and its recognition by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).



## The fight against transboundary poaching

### A tripartite agreement signed

To ensure implementation and follow-up of decisions taken by the Council Ministers, the Executive Secretariat acquired an advanced and regularly updated dashboard which helped to conduct a number of activities such as preparations for the third Summit of Heads of State and Government, monitoring recommendations on COMIFAC's financial and accounting audits, missions to the incumbent Presidency, continued implementation of the recommendations from the institutional and organisational audit of the Executive Secretariat and partner institutions (ATO, OCFA, ADIE), etc.



On the sidelines of the November 2013 extraordinary session of Ministers held in N'Djamena, the Ministers of Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad signed on 8 March 2013, a Cooperation Agreement on the fight against transboundary poaching between the three countries.

The Agreement also provides the establishment of a number of bodies including a Tri-national Oversight and Arbitration Committee (CTSA), a Tri-national Planning and Execution Committee (CTPE) and a Tri-national Monitoring Committee (CTS).





## Partnerships: Those who support us

At the end of the November 2013 meeting of the COMIFAC Council, the ministers in their final communiqué expressed their gratitude to partners for their ongoing support of COMIFAC in the discharge of its missions. It is indeed thanks to the multi-faceted support the institution receives that it has achieved the expansion it now enjoys, on the one hand, and on the other hand, that the commitments made by the Central African states to work for the conservation and sustainable management of their common heritage can translate into concrete actions.

### Regional cooperation



ECCAS support in 2013 helped in organising the November 2013 Extraordinary Session of the Council of Ministers in N'Djamena, and the Eighth meeting of the Working Group on the Fight against Desertification. Thus, ECCAS continued to provide overall oversight of the PACEBCo regional programme



As part of the PACEBCo programme, the Central African Protected Areas Network (RAPAC) carries out activities contributing to the implementation of the sub-regional Convergence Plan through the signing of a Partnership agreement with ECCAS. The European Union Commission also supports RAPAC through the protected areas component of the ECOFAC V Programme.



Under COMIFAC supervision, RIFFEAC implements the “Capacity building of RIFFEAC members in sustainable development of forest concessions”, “Capacity building in sustainable management of tropical rainforest and biodiversity conservation in Congo basin member countries of ITTO” projects funded by Japan (JICA), Switzerland and Belgium and technically supported by the ITTO, the Support Project to match training with jobs (PARAFE) in the Forestry, Environment and Timber sectors in Central Africa financed by France, the “Establishing and building capacities for sustainable exploitation of forest resources in the Congo basin” Project financed by GIZ. RIFFEAC also executes the Expanded Natural Resources Management Training Programme in the Congo Basin (PEFOGRN-BC). The programme is financed by CBFF and aims to build the capacities of RIFFEAC member training institutions in the use of various material and equipment.

## International cooperation



The German cooperation has developed a COMIFAC support program including a GIZ module with the main aim of enhancing the representation of the interests of member States at the international, national and regional level, improving the design and implementation of national forestry/environmental programmes in line with the Convergence Plan. To achieve the latter, the support Project focuses on five areas of intervention known as components. Through the GIZ regional support project to COMIFAC, COMIFAC has received institutional support since 2007. The second phase of this project (2011-2014) continued in 2013 as part of a joint programme with the financial cooperation agency (KfW) entitled "Sustainable management of Congo Basin forests". This phase comprises a GIZ COMIFAC support module dealing mainly with the following areas: (1) Organisational support, (2) Strengthening civil society participation, (3) International dialogue on forests, (4) Regional management of protected areas /use of space, (5) Capitalising and harnessing experience gained. The two KfW modules which were launched in 2012 focus on Promoting Certified Forests in the Congo Basin and the Sangha Tri-national Foundation (FTNS): Congo and CAR component.



The AfDB supports COMIFAC through the PACEBCo and Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) initiatives. In the case of PACEBCo, the AfDB is the main donor through African Development fund. The CBFF for its part was launched in June 2008 thanks to contributions from the governments of the Kingdom of Great Britain and the Kingdom of Norway. The fund aims to support implementation of the Convergence Plan, particularly Strategic areas 2, 6 and 9. The fund's specific purpose is to contribute to the fight against deforestation and poverty reduction among local communities. The fund equally finances implementation of the NTFP Project.



Banque Mondiale/FEM

The Global Environment Fund and the World Bank support COMIFAC through the Regional Project for Enhancing Institutional Capacities for REDD+ and the MSP project.

The MSP project came into force in July 2011. It ends in 2014. Its activities focus on building COMIFAC's capacities, updating and operationalising the COMIFAC monitoring and evaluation system, revision and operationalisation of COMIFAC's web portal and information delivery, strengthening the capacities of COMIFAC senior officials through training.

As for the REDD+ regional project, it came into force in November 2011 and will run for five years. It is being implemented in the following six countries: Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Central African Republic.



Using CARPE funding, the United States Forest Service (USFS) has supported the COMIFAC Executive Secretariat in a number of technical and working areas to ease communication and integrate CARPE activities in the COMIFAC Convergence Plan. Specific support provided to the Executive Secretariat by the USFS mainly entailed the organisation of the sub-regional workshop to validate the forest land planning and management guides. Finally, the U.S. authorities agreed to enter a direct agreement with COMIFAC through a grant to be awarded to the institution under phase III of the CARPE programme.



Since 2008, GEF has been providing funding towards the implementation of the TRIDOM project entitled "Conservation of transboundary biodiversity in the Dja-Odzala-Minkebe interzone in Cameroon, Congo and Gabon". The seven-year project is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).



In 2013, COMIFAC continued its cooperation with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the area of technical assistance. Thanks to JICA support, two technical assistants to the Executive Secretariat were transferred to Yaounde. The assistants provided support with: GTBAC's activities and its roadmap, organisation of COMIFAC National Coordinating Bodies' training workshop, organisation of the seventh meeting of the "Desertification" Working Group and the first meeting of the Sub-Working Group on Protected Areas and Wildlife, finalisation of the Guide for Establishing Transboundary Protected Areas, development of COMIFAC's documentary database and other key reports.



FAO

FAO assistance to COMIFAC and its Convergence Plan in 2013 focused mainly on the launch of the GCP/RAF/441/GER "Strengthening Food Security in Central Africa through Sustainable Management of Non Timber Forest Products" Project (funded by CBFF). It should also be underscored that the Regional MRV Project funded by CBFF is being executed by FAO under COMIFAC coordination.



IUCN

COMIFAC receives support from the International Union for Conservation of Nature through its support of the Convergence Plan review process. In 2013, the aid was provided in the form of an International Consultant provided to support the review process.



PNUE FEM

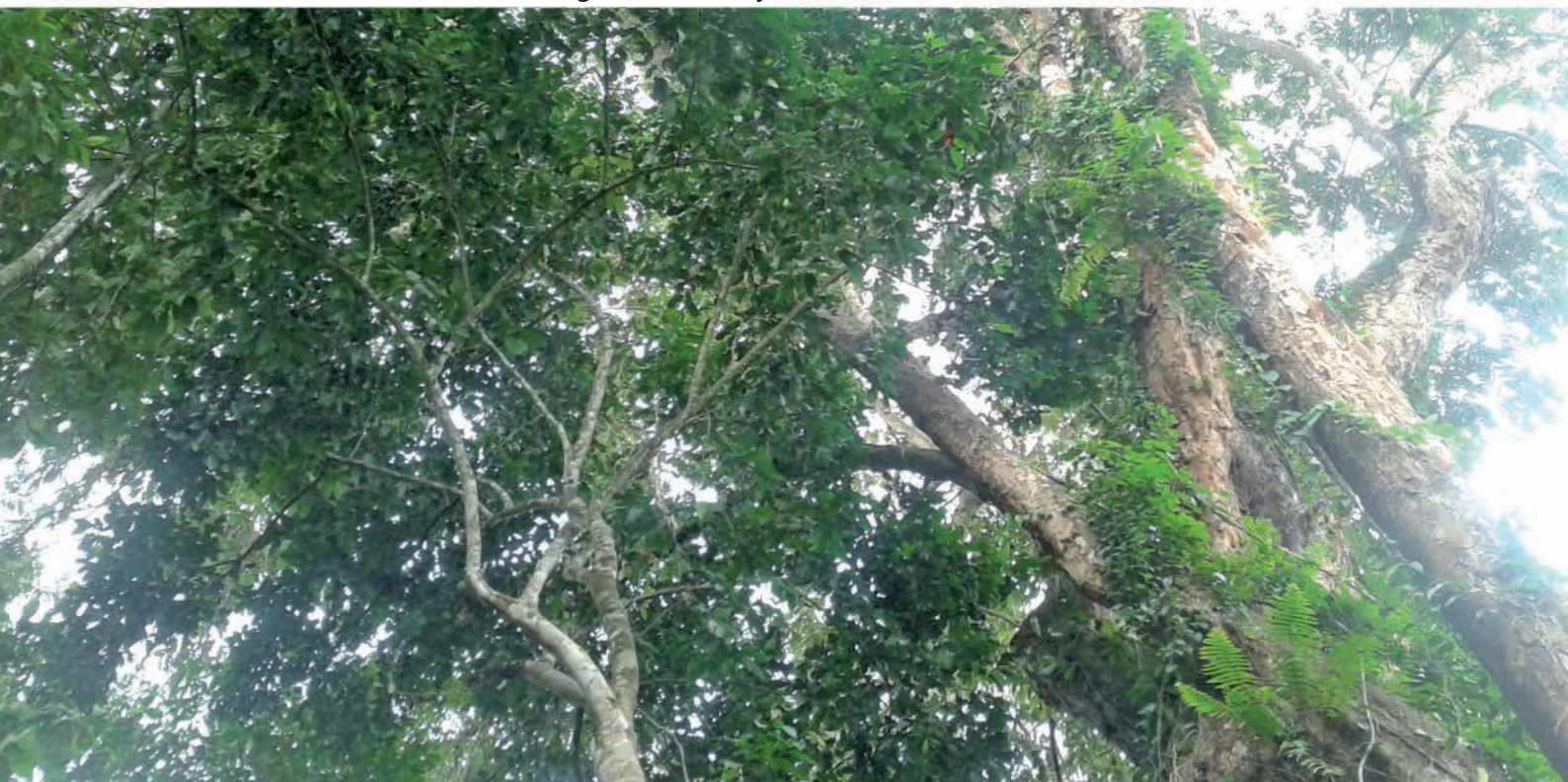
The United Nations Environment Programme supports the implementation of the "Harmonised Regional Approach to Sustainable Management of Production Forests in the Congo Basin". The project is funded by GEF under COMIFAC supervision with WRI as the implementing body.



IIASA, INPE, UNEP-  
WCMC

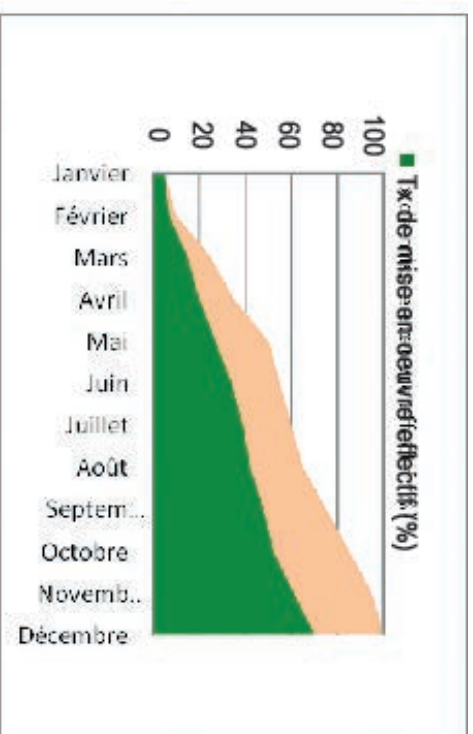
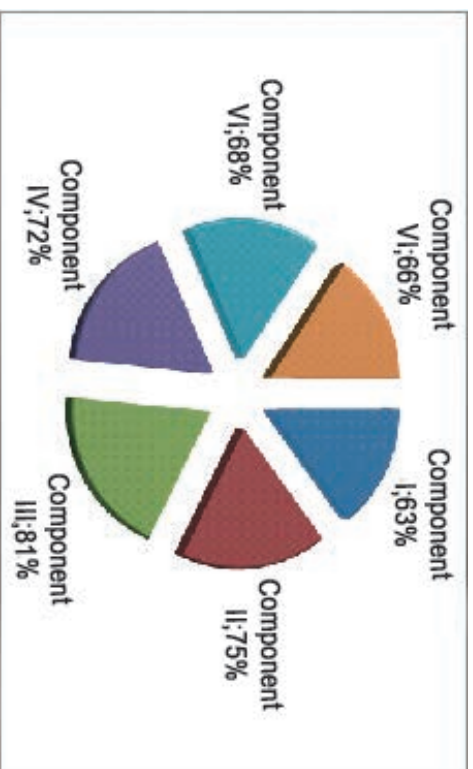
COMIFAC partners with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in implementing an international project entitled "REDD+ Policy Assessment Centre". The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Nuclear Security (BMU) to the tune of 3 billion CFAF over a period of four years. The research project seeks to support the elaboration of National REDD Action Plans in line with CBD objectives, to design and support a fair, effective and efficient international REDD+ architecture.

<sup>1</sup> CBD : Convention on Biological Diversity



# COMIFAC in figures :

## Review of achievements in 2013



Components	Implementation rate
Component I: Planning, monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the Convergence Plan	63%
Component II: Communication, sub-regional consultation and capacity building	75%
Component III: International dialogue on forests and the environment and promotion of COMIFAC	81%
Component IV: Coordinating implementation of the Convergence Plan and Partnerships	72%
Component V: COMIFAC statutory meetings	68%
Component VI: Coordination and management of COMIFAC Executive Secretariat	66%
Average	71%

# COMIFAC *in figures* :

## Our finances

IN 2013, countries in the sub-region and development partners as well as international and regional organisations joined forces to support the Executive Secretariat in its missions, by means of funding provided to the institution. The tables below present member countries' contributions as well as financial support from partners whose funds transit through COMIFAC accounts.

### Contributions from stakeholders (Resources)

Contributions from the countries and ECCAS (in CFAF)	Country	Annual contributions	Recovery of arrears
	From 1.01.2013 to 31.12.2013		
	Burundi	0	0
	Cameroon	30,700,000	0
	Congo	30,700,000	79,300,000
	Gabon	0	30,700,000
	Equatorial Guinea	30,700,000	153,500,000
	CAR	0	0
	DRC	0	0
	Rwanda	0	0
	Sao Tome and Principe	0	0
	Chad	0	0
	Total contributions from countries		355,600,000
	ECCAS subsidies		27,040,500
	Total resources 1		382,640,500

Financial support from partners (CFAF)	Partners	Amount	Support areas
		ECCAS/ADB/PACEBCo	9,334,325
	FAO/NTFP	13,280,302	• NTFP Agreement balance (702,327) • OFAC/EDF Agreement 2013 (12,577,975)
	WWF	1,731,727	Agreement for preparation of COP 19
	CORAF/WECARD	69,062,000	Organisation of sub-regional information and validation workshop: Relationship between research and climate change adaptation policies in Central Africa
	IIASA	140,673,350	IIASA Agreement (Implementation of REDD/PAC Project)
	JICA	1,840,000	Funding for travel expenses COP 19 and COMIFAC News 12
	ATIBT	293,298	Executive Secretary's air ticket to the international forum on sustainable development of the timber industry in the CB
	Total resources 2	236,215,002	

Total resources (CFAF)	COMIFAC Account		Partner support account
	Remaining funds from previous year	Bank Cash	
		4,888,231	26,247,880
		344,010	0
	Resources mobilised	382,640,500	236,215,002
	Total per account	387,872,741	262,462,882
	Overall total of both accounts		650,033,623



## Budget Execution Statement (Uses)

	Title	Amount
Execution of the budget (CFAF)	Fixed assets	1, 286, 500
	COMIFAC staff salaries and benefits	159, 336, 127
	Workshops and seminars	28, 559, 072
	Consultants' fees	52, 673, 124
	Other overhead charges	163, 735, 496
	<b>Total uses</b>	<b>405, 590, 319</b>
	<b>Cash balance as at 31 December 2013 (Resources – uses balance)</b>	<b>244, 443, 304</b>
	<b>Banks</b>	
	<b>Cash</b>	
Unpaid costs and loans (CFAF)	Suppliers	15, 100, 894
	CNPS social benefits	396, 702
	Taxes	199, 731
	CONGO advance payments	16, 000, 000
	<b>Total debt owed to third parties</b>	<b>31, 697, 327</b>
Receivables (FCFA)	Receivables due to staff on duty	4, 970, 000
	Staff tax arrears	6, 145, 268
	Various debtors	3, 177, 669
	Prepaid expenses	5, 130, 000
	Suppliers / advance deliveries	500, 000
	<b>Total receivables</b>	<b>19, 922, 937</b>

## Statement of resources and uses of MSP project

	Title	Amounts realised from 01.01.2013 to 31.12.2013	
		Balance as at 31.12.2013	Movements for the period
Resources (FCFA)	Funding from the States	0	0
	Funding from Partners	214, 729, 619	149, 364, 500
	Interest income	444, 431	136, 470
	Sub-total : Own funds	215, 174, 050	149, 506, 935
	Exchange rate difference		
	Other debts or receivables	5, 247, 436	2,109, 236
	<b>Total resources as at 31.12.2013</b>	<b>220, 421, 486</b>	<b>151, 473, 736</b>
Uses (FCFA)	Equipment, furniture and movable assets	17, 321, 500	17, 195, 500
	Staff salaries and benefits	44, 344, 600	28, 845, 400
	Consultants' fees	16, 112, 200	6, 515, 000
	Workshops, training and seminars	58, 481, 194	29, 381, 800
	Other overhead charges	18, 973, 878	5, 359,166
	Social Charges	0	0
	<b>Sub-total : Investments</b>	<b>155, 233, 372</b>	<b>87, 806, 045</b>
	Other receivables	0	0
	Available funds	65, 188, 114	63, 810, 126
		<b>Total uses as at 31.12.2013</b>	<b>220, 421, 486</b>

NOTE: Funds received through the MSP project in support of COMIFAC are valued at 65.3 Million CFAF supplemented by interest income amounting to 444,431 FCFA. The year's expenses stand at 67,301,327 FCFA supplemented by fixed assets totalling 126, 000 CFAF. COMIFAC requests a 2nd extension of the project deadline in order to complete ongoing activities.

# Human Resources

## Administration

The organisation chart of the Central African Forest Commission is comprised of paid staff classified as follows:

- ▶ **Statutory category:** Executive Secretary, Deputy Executive Secretary and Technical Coordinator and Administrative and Financial Director.
- ▶ **Technical category:** Programme Officer, Technical assistants (2), Legal and Tax Advisor, Communication Specialist-Librarian, Accountant.
- ▶ **Support category :** Administrative assistant, Secretary/Receptionist, Messenger, Drivers (4), Security Officers (8) and Cleaner

Under the technical category, the following positions were filled thanks to financial support from partners:

- ▶ A Biodiversity and Desertification Specialist (funding from the REDD-PAC/IIASA project)
- ▶ Five experts in the fields of Communication, Environment, Law, Socio economics, Gender and Monitoring–Evaluation (ADB/ECCAS/PACEBCo funding)
- ▶ An accountant (GEF/World Bank funding).

Lastly, the Executive Secretariat also filled new positions, namely:

- ▶ A Technical Assistant, provided by the Government of Equatorial Guinea
- ▶ A land use policy expert recruited thanks to funding from the REDD-PAC project

## Material Resources

COMIFAC's material resources are comprised of intangible and tangible assets, fixtures and fittings as well as other movable assets.

Some of the fixed assets were relinquished by partners of the Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) without any information provided on their purchase value. Others were acquired during the 2013 financial year with the institution's own funds, namely a 2m<sup>3</sup> water tank, an office and office chair. Overall, most of the institution's equipment (80%) need to be renewed as their age has already exceeded their useful lifespan. Some of the equipment (rolling stock) was refurbished and sold.

# Human Resources

## COMIFAC STAFF

### Statutory staff



**Raymond MBITIKON**  
Executive Secretary



**Martin TADOUM**  
Deputy Executive Secretary– Technical Coordinator



**Etienne MASUMBUKO**  
Financial and Administrative Director

### Technical and support staff



**Valérie TCHUANTE TITE**  
Monitoring and Evaluation Expert



**Chouaibou NCHOUTPOUEN**  
Biodiversity and Desertification Specialist



**Miche NDJATSANA**  
Environment Specialist



**Médard MAVOUNGOU BAFOUKA**  
Communication Specialist



**Florantine Mapeine ONOPIANG**  
Legal Expert



**Sem NDITIFEI**  
SocioEconomist and Gender Specialist



**Jean Claude NDO EKOU MOU**  
Senior Advisor, Forest Governance



**Mariano Luis ESONO NDEMESOGO ANGUE**  
Technical Assistant



**Peguy TONGA KETCHATANG**  
Land use policy Expert



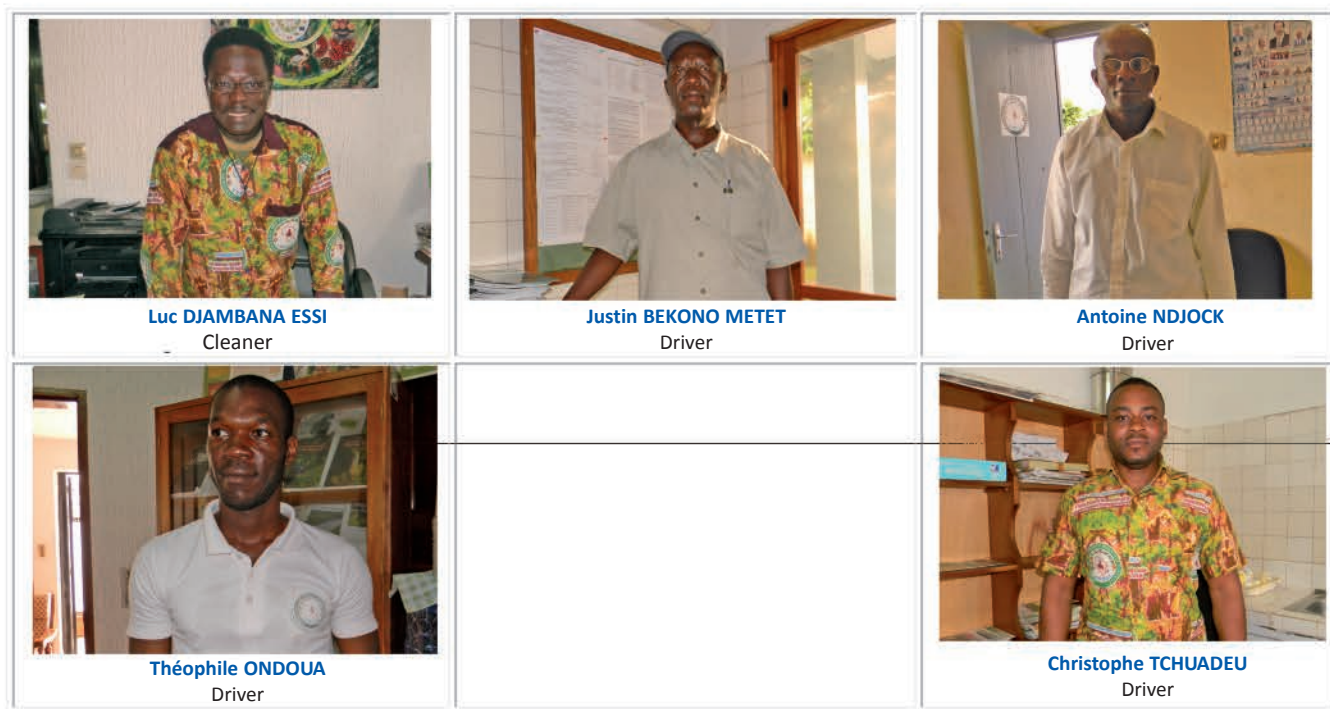
**Elisabeth KOUAM AYUK**  
Administrative assistant



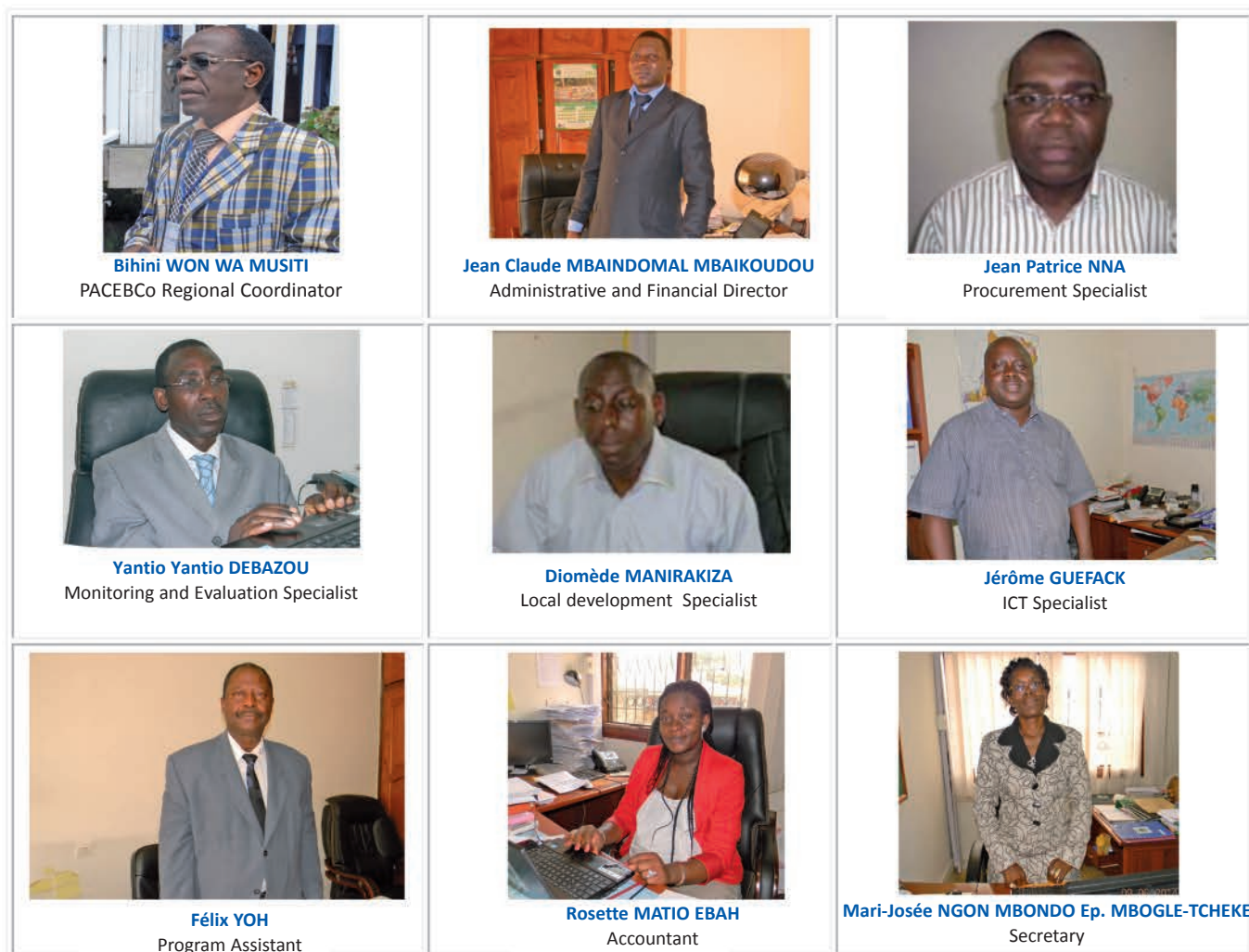
**Jean Claude KENFACK**  
Accounting



**Céline NANA**  
Secretary



## Staff of PACEB Co Programme Management Unit



## Staff of OFAC Regional Unit



**Dr Francois HIOL HIOL**  
OFAC Regional Expert



**Belmond DJOMO**  
IT Expert

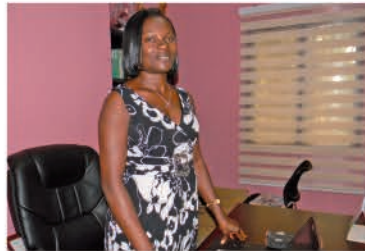


**Donald DJOSI JOMHA**  
IT Expert

## Staff of REDD+ Regional Project Management Unit



**Hervé MAIDOU**  
Regional Coordinator



**NGO BOUM Lydie épouse NGUIMBOUS**  
Technical Assistant in charge of Monitoring and Evaluation



**Monique NDOME DIDIBA DINDE**  
Contracts Award Specialist Sr



**Nicholas PICARD**  
Technical Assistant on Carbon













**Brice MAMOUC**  
Accountant



**Clarisse Inès MBEN**  
Administrative Assistant

## COMIFAC National Coordinators in 2013

National Coordinator, <b>Burundi</b> : Félix NGENDABANYIKWA	
National Coordinator, <b>Cameroon</b> : Victoire EHETH ONGMOUTO	
National Coordinator, <b>Congo</b> : Joachim KONDI	
National Coordinator, <b>Central African Republic</b> : Yves YALIBANDA	
National Coordinator <b>Gabon</b> : Raymond NDOMBA NGOYE	
National Coordinator, <b>Equatorial Guinea</b> : Joseph BAKALE ESI	
National Coordinator, <b>Rwanda</b> : Adrie MUKASHEMA	
National Coordinator, <b>Sao Tome and Principe</b> : Sabino PIRES CARVALHO	
National Coordinator, <b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b> : Godefroid NDAUKILA	
National Coordinator, <b>Chad</b> : Barnabas Guy vi GUILOU FACHO	





## Central African Forests Commission

A regional dimension to the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems



[www.COMIFAC.org](http://www.COMIFAC.org)

**COMIFAC**