



*29th Conference of Parties (COP29) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
11-24 November 2024
Baku, Azerbaijan*

The forests of Central Africa: Mobilising the region and international community to preserve the Congo Basin's forests and biodiversity

High-level multi-stakeholder dialogue of the Central African Forest Commission and the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) between representatives of donor countries, civil society, the private sector, science, INGOs and multilaterals in dialogue with representatives of Central African countries.

**Tuesday, 12 November 2024
4:30 - 6pm.**

The Forest Pavilion is located in the Blue Zone (C4, Zone E) as part of the reimagined SDG Pavilion organized by UN DESA: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/outreach/the-forest-pavilion-at-climate-cop29/index.html> - The event will be streamed live on the [YouTube DESA Channel](#)

CO-ORGANISERS - Partner organisations: Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), co-Facilitation of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP): France-Gabon, United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFF); Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI).

Theme of the event: Interactive discussion on the mobilisation of the region and the international community to preserve the forests, biodiversity and carbon sinks of the Congo Basin, including what could be implemented after COP 30 in Belem. Elements of a medium- and long-term vision (2025-2030) on how to coordinate and implement coordinated action for the forests of Central Africa.

CO-CHAIRS: **His Excellency Mr Prosper Dodiko**, Minister for the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Burundi, current Chairman of COMIFAC, **Her Excellency Mrs. Salina Grenet-Catalano**, Co-Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership for the Republic of France and **Her Excellency Dr Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo**, Ambassador-at-Large for Climate, Environment and Sustainable Development of Gabon, Co-Facilitator of the CBFP for the Gabonese Republic

DESCRIPTION: The COMIFAC - ECCAS - CBFP – CAFI-UNFF Secretariat multi-stakeholder dialogue will promote the forests of Central Africa as a source of solutions in the fight against climate change. It aims to speed up the implementation of the commitments made in the 2021 COMIFAC declaration entitled 'Declaration of commitment by the COMIFAC member states for the forests of Central Africa and call for equitable financing', known as the 'Fair Deal', and the COP26 joint declaration by the Congo Basin donors of 1.5 billion US dollars entitled 'Supporting the protection and sustainable management of the forests of the Congo Basin'. The session will call for concrete and effective action to protect and sustainably manage the forests of the Congo Basin, present the results of the Congo Basin Pledge contributions in 2023 and share thinking about what comes after the Congo Basin Pledge after COP30 in 2025:

The discussions at this event will make it possible to:

- Present the actions of COMIFAC countries for the conservation and sustainable management of Central Africa's forests as a nature-based solution in the fight against climate change;
- Present the results of the Congo Basin Pledge's contribution in calendar year 2023
- Share ideas of what we can learn from the current pledge and what should happen next after COP30 next year;
- Better coordination and mobilisation of all stakeholders for the forests of Central Africa.
- Interactive discussion on the elements of a medium- and long-term vision on how to implement coordinated action

This high-level event will bring together representatives of donor countries, civil society, the private sector, INGOs and multilaterals in dialogue with representatives of Central African countries.

Summary: The protection, sustainable management and restoration of forests are essential elements of a viable pathway to achieving the international community's 1.5-degree target for the climate. Absorbing around 1.1 billion tCO₂ per year into the atmosphere, or around 4% of global emissions each year, Central Africa remains one of the only regions in the world that absorbs more carbon than it emits (Net Flow of 610 million tCo₂) and has a carbon storage sequestering around 60 billion tCo₂ including 30 billion tCo₂ in its peatlands. So, action to support the protection of the world's leading lung in terms of the net positive carbon balance of tropical basins, its peatlands and other ecosystems, is essential to efforts to limit global warming.

The aim of the CBFP- COMIFAC - ECCAS – CAFI-UNFF multi-stakeholder dialogue is to speed up the implementation of the commitments made in the September 2021 “Declaration of Commitment of COMIFAC Member States to the Central African forests and Call for Equitable Financing”, also known as the ‘Fair Deal’. This Declaration was the basis for the commitment made by the financial partners at COP 26 in Glasgow to ‘Support the protection and sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests’, with a joint financial commitment of 1.5 billion for the period 2021-2025 (Congo Basin Pledge 2021). This event at COP 29 will advocate concrete and effective actions in favour of the protection and sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests as a nature-based solution for the climate, present the Declaration of COMIFAC countries and will facilitate interactive discussions on the elements of a medium and long-term vision on how to implement coordinated action for tropical forests. The session will also provide a forum for ‘sharing ideas’ on what we can learn from the current Congo Basin Pledge (2021-2025) and what should happen next (2025-2030).

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Time (90 min)	COMIFAC - CEEAC - CBFP – CAFI-UNFF Event 12 November 2024, 4:30-6pm.
4H30 – 4H50pm	<p>Welcome and introductory remarks by co-hosts: 3 Minute Speech each!!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome address by the Co-Facilitators of the French and Gabonese Republics of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) • Speech of the Executive Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, UNFF, Ms. Juliette Biao • Speech of the Chair, Central African Forest Initiative, CAFI, Jenny Bates, Director General Economics, Climate & Global Issues, FCDO – representing United Kingdom, in her capacity as CAFI chair • Speech of the Commissioner for the Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development, Economic Community of Central African States, ECCAS, His Excellency Dr Honoré Tabuna
4H50– 4H55pm	<p>Introductory presentation on the importance of Central Africa's forests for the climate and global biodiversity - Nature-based solutions: presentation of recent scientific work, one representative (a representative of the Science, One Forest Vision, OFVi)</p>
4H55- 5H55pm	<p>Discussion panel: This session will bring together ministers and/or senior officials from CBFP donor countries, representatives of civil society, the private sector, INGOs, private sectors and multilaterals in dialogue with ministers and/or senior officials from COMIFAC Central African countries.</p> <p>Interactive discussion on the mobilisation of the region and the international community to preserve the forests, biodiversity and carbon sinks of the Congo Basin, including what could be implemented after COP 30 in Belem. Elements of a medium and long-term vision on how to coordinate and implement the ‘Fair Deal’ principle of fair, adequate and equitable financing for Congo Basin.</p> <p>Panel 3 Minute Speech each !!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives of the Regional College: His Excellency General Maurice Ntossui Allogo, Minister of Water and Forests of Gabon; His Excellency Mr Jules Doret Ndongu, Minister of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon (MINFOF) (tbc) • Representatives of the CBFP’s College of Donors: Ms. Jenny Bates, Director General Economics, Climate & Global Issues, FCDO – representing United Kingdom in her capacity as CAFI chair; Ms. Heike Henn, Deputy Director-General for Climate; energy; environment at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ, Germany • Testimony on the Fair Deal by Honourable Dr Christian Ruck, former Federal Republic of Germany Co-Facilitator of the CBFP • CBFP Civil Society College representative: His Majesty, the Honourable Essola Etoa Louis-Roger, Chairman of the Regional Steering Committee and Executive Secretary of CEFDHAC • Representatives of the CBFP’s private sector College: Ms. Françoise Van de Ven, President of International Tropical Timber Technical Association, ATIBT • Representative of the CBFP’s Multi-Lateral College: Ms. Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director, International Tropical Timber Organization ITTO (tbc) <p>Moderation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Excellency Mrs. Salina Grenet-Catalano, Co-Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership for the Republic of France • Her Excellency Dr Aurélie Flore Koumba Pambo, Ambassador-at-Large in charge for Climate, Environment and Sustainable Development of Gabon, Co-Facilitator of the CBFP for the Gabonese Republic
5H55- 6H00pm	<p>Conclusion - 5 min</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech of the Minister for the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Burundi, Chairman-in-Office of Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), His Excellency Mr Prosper Dodiko