



THE FORESTS OF THE CONGO BASIN

State of the Forest 2010



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ACRONYMS

AAC	Annual cutting range	CBFF	Congo Basin Forest Fund
ACP	Africa, Caribbean and Pacific	CBFP	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
ADF	African Development Forum	CBG	Compagnie des Bois du Gabon
ADIE	International Agency for the Development of Environmental Information	CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management
AED	African Elephant Database	CdC	Cadres de Concertation
AETFAT	Association for the Taxonomic Study of the Flora of Tropical Africa	CDF	Centre des Données forestières
AFD	French Development Agency	CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
AfDB	African Development Bank	CEB	Compagnie Équatoriale des Bois
AfESG	African Elephant Specialist Group	CEFDHAC	Conférence on Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems
AFREF	African Geodetic Reference Frame	CEI	Centre d'Échange d'Informations
ANDEGE	Amigos de la Naturaleza y el Desarrollo de Guinea Ecuatorial	CFA	Communauté financière d'Afrique
ANPN	National Parks Agency	CFAD	Forest Concession under Sustainable Management
ANU	Australian National University	CI	Conservation International
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States	CIB	Congolaise industrielle des Bois
API	Aménagement Pilote intégré	CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
ATIBT	Association technique internationale des Bois tropicaux	CIRAD	Centre de Coopération internationale en Recherche agronomique pour le Développement
ATO	African Timber Organization	CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation	CNIAF	Centre national d'Inventaire et d'Aménagement des Ressources forestières et fauniques
AWG-KP	Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol	CNPZF	Comité national de Pilotage du Zonage forestier
AWG-LCA	Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Co-operative Action under the Convention	CoC	Chain of Custody
BASIC	Brazil, South Africa, India and China	COMIFAC	Central African Forests Commission
BDEAC	Central African States Development Bank	COP	Conference of the Parties
BGCI	Botanic Gardens Conservation International	COVAREF	Comité de Valorisation des Ressources fauniques
BSBY	Bi national Sena Oura - Bouba Ndjidda-Yamoussa	CPAET	Provisional Convention of Management, Exploitation and Processing
BTC	Belgian Technical Cooperation	CRDPI	Centre de Recherche sur la Durabilité et la Productivité des Plantations industrielles
BVQI	Bureau Veritas Certification	CTFT	Centre technique forestier tropical
C2D	Debt reduction and Development Contract	CUREF	Conservación y Utilización Racional de los Ecosistemas Forestales
CABGAN	Central African Botanic Gardens Network	DC	Developing Countries
CAMES	African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education	DDEF	Direction départementale de l'Économie forestière
CAR	Central African Republic	DDICB	Direction du Développement des Industries et du Commerce du Bois
CARPE	Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment	DEP	Direction des Études et de la Planification
CARPO	Central African Regional Program Office		
CAWHFI	Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative		
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity		

DESS	Degree of Higher Specialized Studies	FTI	Forest Transparency Initiative
DFAP	Direction de la Faune et des Aires protégées	FTNS	Sangha Tri-National Foundation
DFS	Deutsche Forest Service	GBIF	Global Biodiversity Information Facility
DGEF	Direction générale des Eaux et Forêts	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
DGF	Direction de Gestion forestière	GEB	Gabon Export Bois
DIAF	Direction des Inventaires et Aménagements forestiers	GEF	Global Environment Facility
DIARF	Direction des Inventaires, de l'Aménagement et de la Régénération des Forêts	GFBC	Groupement de la Filière Bois du Cameroun
DLH	Dalhoff Larsen and Horneman	GHG	Greenhouse Gas
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	GIS	Geographic Information System
DRH	Direction du Reboisement et de l'Horticulture	GLC	Global Land Cover
EC	European Commission	GPS	Global Positioning System
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	GRASP	Great Apes Survival Partnership
EC-JRC	Joint Research Centre of the European Commission	GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
ECOFAC	Écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique centrale	HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
EDF	European Development Fund	ICASEES	Institut centrafricain de Statistiques et d'Études économiques et sociales
EFC	Eucalyptus et Fibres du Congo	ICCN	Institut congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature
EFG	École de Faune de Garoua	ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
ERAIFT	Regional Post-graduate Training School on Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Lands	IFB	Industries forestières de Batalimo
ERZ	Extractive Resource Zone	IFO	Industrie forestière de Ouessou
ESMAP	Energy Sector Management Assistance Program	IMCS	International Media, Conseils & Services
ETIS	Elephant Trade Information System	INC	National Institute of Cartography
EU	European Union	INERA	Institut national d'Études et Recherches agronomiques
FACET	Forêts d'Afrique centrale évaluées par Télé-détection	INPE	National Institute for Space Research
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	INS	Institut national des Statistiques
FAOSTAT	FAO Statistics Division	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility	IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
FIB	Fédération des Industriels du Bois	IRET	Institut de Recherche en Écologie Tropicale
FIP	Forest Investment Program	IRSC	Institut de Recherches scientifiques au Congo
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade	ITTA	International Tropical Timber Agreement
FMU	Forest Management Unit	ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
FOB	Free On Board	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
FORENET	Forestry Research Network	JERS	Japanese Earth Resources Satellite
FOT	Free On Truck	JPL	Jet Propulsion Laboratory
FRA	Forest Resources Assessment	JRC	Joint Research Centre
FRM	Forêt Ressources Management	KfW	German Development Bank
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council	KP	Kyoto Protocol
		LDC	Least Developed Countries
		LIDAR	Light Detection and Ranging

LMC	Local Management Committee	ONFI	Office national des Forêts International
LNPC	Local and National Partner Committee	OSFAC	Observatoire satellital des Forêts d'Afrique centrale
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	PA	Protected Area
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry	PACEBCo	Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Programme
MA	Monte Alén	PAFC	Pan African Forest Certification
MAB	Man and the Biosphere	PAGEF	Projet d'Appui à la Gestion des Forêts du Congo
MC	Monts de Cristal	PAPPF	Projet d'Aménagement des petits Permis forestiers gabonais
MDDEFE	Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Économie forestière et de l'Environnement	PARPAF	Projet d'Appui à la Réalisation des Plans d'Aménagement forestier
MECNT	Ministère de l'Environnement, Conservation de la Nature et Tourisme	PASR-LCD	Sub-Regional Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation and Desertification
MEEATU	Ministère de l'Eau, de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Urbanisme	PEA	Exploitation and Management Permit
MEF	Ministère de l'Économie forestière	PEVi	Virunga Environmental Programme
MEFCP	Ministère des Eaux, Forêts, Chasse et Pêche	PNVi	Virunga National Park
MERH	Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources halieutiques	PROGEPP	Projet de Gestion des Écosystèmes dans la Périphérie du Parc national de Nouabalé-Ndoki
MERIS	Medium Resolution Imaging Spectrometer	PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
MINDAF	Ministry of State Property and Land Tenure	PTMC	Parc transfrontalier Mayumba - Konkouati
MINEF	Ministry of the Environment and Forests	PZF	Forest Zoning Plan
MINEPAT	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development	RAPAC	Central Africa Protected Areas Network
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife	RDZ	Rural Development Zone
MLW	Maringa-Lopori-Wamba	REBAC	Central African Botanists Network
MNHN	Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle	REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
MOCAP-CIG	Mount Cameroon Prunus Management - Common Initiative Group	REDIFAC	Network of Forest Directors in Central Africa
MODIS	Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer	REFADD	African Women's Network for Sustainable Development
MPI	Max Planck Institute	REJEFAC	Youth Network for the Forests of Central Africa
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification	REPALEAC	Network of the Local and Indigenous People for the Sustainable Management of Central Africa's Forests Ecosystems
MTKB	Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi-Biega	REPAR	Network of Parliament members in Central Africa
NAMAs	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions	RFA	Redevance forestière annuelle
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	RIFFEAC	Network of Forestry and Environmental Training Institutions in Central Africa
NGO	Non Governmental Organization	RIL	Reduced Impact Logging
NP	National Park	RIP	Regional Indicative Programme
NR	Natural Reserve	R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
NST	Nord Sud Timber	RWE	Round Wood Equivalent
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product		
OCFSA	Organization for Wildlife Conservation in Central Africa		
OFAC	Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa		
OKNP	Odzala-Kokoua National Park		
OLB	Origin and Legality of Timber		

SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice	ULB	Université libre de Bruxelles
SCAD	Société Centrafricaine de Déroulage	UMD	University of Maryland
SDSU	South Dakota State University	UN Comtrade	United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database
SEFAC	Société d'Exploitation forestière et agricole du Cameroun	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
SEFCA	Société d'Exploitation forestière centrafricaine	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
SEPBG	Société d'Exploitation des Parcs à Bois du Gabon	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
SFID	Société forestière et industrielle de la Doumé	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
SGS	Société générale de Surveillance	UNIKIN	University of Kinshasa
SIAF	Service des Inventaires et Aménagement forestiers	UNIKIS	University of Kisangani
SIBAF	Société industrielle des Bois Africains	UN-REDD	United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SIFORCO	Société industrielle et forestière du Congo	US	United States
SIGIF	Système informatique de Gestion des Informations forestières	USA	United States of America
SIV	Simian Immunodeficiency Virus	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
SNBG	Société nationale des Bois du Gabon	USFS	United States Forest Service
SNR	National Reforestation Service	USGS	United States Geological Survey
SODEFOR	Société de Développement forestière	VAT	Value Added Tax
SODETRAN-CAM	Société de Transport et de Négoce du Cameroun	VLC	Verification of Legal Compliance
SOF	State of the Forest	VLO	Verification of Legal Origin
SOFOKAD	Société Forestière de la Kadéi	VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
SOFORMA	Société forestière du Mayumbe	WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
SPIAF	Service permanent d'Inventaire et d'Aménagement forestier	WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
SPOT-VGT	SPOT - Vegetation	WISDOM	Woodfuel Integrated Supply / Demand Overview Mapping
SSC	Species Survival Commission	WRI	World Resources Institute
STBK	Société de Transformation de Bois de la Kadey	WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
SYVBAC	Système de suivi de la filière Viande de Brousse en Afrique centrale	ZCV	Village Hunting Zone
TBPA	Transboundary Protected Area	ZIC	Zone d'Intérêt cynégétique
Teq	Equivalent ton	ZICGC	Zone d'Intérêt cynégétique à Gestion communautaire
TEREA	Terre Environnement Aménagement	ZSL	Zoological Society of London
TFT	The Forest Trust		
TLTV	Timber Legality and Traceability Verification		
TNS	Sangha Tri-National		
TRIDOM	Dja-Odzala-Minkébé Landscape		
UCECAF	Central Unit of Forestry Cartography		
UCL	Université catholique de Louvain		
UK	United Kingdom		

PREFACE

Secular equilibriums between man and nature seem today to be disturbed: climate change presses forward under the influence of critical levels of greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity is being lost at a rate never before seen, and rural populations of countries in the South are having increasing difficulty feeding themselves and finding suitable living environments. The challenge facing us ahead is to ensure decent living conditions for the 8 billion inhabitants of the planet, starting with the poorest, without jeopardizing the welfare of future generations by over-exploiting natural resources.

Given this perspective, who can still doubt the important role tropical forests have to play in the resolution of these major ecological and economic crises? The Congo Basin forests cover 200 million hectares in the heart of Africa. They support the livelihoods of 60 million people, generate funds for States in the region through timber exploitation, absorb huge amounts of carbon, comprise a unique biodiversity and regulate the flow of the major rivers across Central Africa. Nevertheless many questions and uncertainties persist on the services the forests provide, their spatial evolution, the opportunities they represent and the threats they face.

To overcome the lack of reliable information, numerous stakeholders in the region and beyond, from government departments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the scientific community, came together in 2005 to produce a first concise State of the Forest report.

This report was followed by more comprehensive editions in 2006 and 2008, with support from the United States, the European Union, France and Germany. This State of the Forest report, produced by the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) and its partners, has become the gold standard for those looking for a comprehensive and detailed assessment of the status of the tropical forests of Central Africa.

Since 2007, the Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa (OFAC), funded by the European Union and supported scientifically by the Joint Research Centre, has collected the necessary data for the development of the State of the Forest report and coordinated the writing. The release of the State of the Forest through 2014 is assured by OFAC, a permanent body under the auspices of COMIFAC, in collaboration with the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP). This 2010 report, co-authored by numerous stakeholders with complementary skills, has also been supported through long-standing COMIFAC partners: the United States, France, Germany and UNESCO.


The forests of Central Africa are the subject of intense debate worldwide. This report aims to provide decision-makers in Central Africa a comprehensive base of high value information to best serve the interests of the States and the people of the region. Central Africa can be proud of this initiative, built in a remarkable spirit of cooperation and often cited in international meetings as an example to emulate in other parts of the world.



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INTRODUCTION

Context

Central Africa contains the second largest expanse of tropical forest in the world. For the most part, it fares better than many other forests. Apart from intermittent areas of heavy deforestation, the overall level of deforestation remains relatively low. However, the increasing pressure that is being exerted on the forests of the Congo Basin could lead to quite considerable degradation and increased poverty for the very large number of people who are still heavily dependent upon the readily-available resources they provide.

Countries in the region have launched a number of initiatives in order to: (i) protect biodiversity; (ii) preserve their economic resources; and (iii) avoid forest-origin greenhouse gas emissions. Despite introducing legislation and creating protected areas, results have not lived up to expectations nor do they satisfactorily reflect investments to date.

Nevertheless, one of the most interesting results of the initiatives that have been developed in the sub-region has been the outcome of regional coordination efforts made by Central African States for biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of forests across the entire Congo Basin. In 1999, the Heads of State of the six Congo Basin forest countries signed the Yaoundé Declaration in Cameroon, thereby confirming their will to collaborate. This was consolidated with the establishment of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), which drew up a Convergence Plan to monitor all activities under its coordination. The Convergence Plan defines the framework for the elaboration of common objectives for forest conservation and encourages the development of new regional and trans-border conservation efforts.

Finally, in order to rationalize these efforts and optimize investments, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) was established on 4 September 2002 at the Earth Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. The CBFP brings together all public and private partners wishing to support the achievement of the Yaoundé Declaration's objectives.

In January 2004, after being in existence for two years, the CARPE program – one of the key partners of the CBFP – produced a first summary report on the State of the Forest in Central Africa. The report was published in January 2005 and

disseminated at the Summit of Heads of State in Brazzaville in February 2005. It was not a detailed scientific report nor a document to solicit additional funding. Instead, it represented a first effort to present, and where feasible quantify, the various steps needed to be taken collectively by all CBFP partners in order to achieve the sustainable management of forest resources. As a first step, the preliminary report did not comprehensively reflect the important efforts deployed in the region, the pressures being exerted on the forests or the overall state of the Congo Basin forests. Accurately reflecting these dynamics is challenging as the pressures and the understanding of the pressures on the forest are not uniform across the region.

It became clear that a more comprehensive and detailed report was needed in order to provide a more balanced and objective picture of regional efforts that had been made by States, various international donors and NGOs. Hence, the 2006 report followed on from the 2005 report and was entitled “The Forests of the Congo Basin: State of the Forest 2006”. Many partners (over 110 experts) contributed to the report, making it a CBFP flagship activity. The 2006 report is considered as a benchmark – a point zero – as regards this process to collectively assess the biodiversity and renewable natural resources in the Congo Basin.

The 2006 report provided a clearer picture of the overall state of the forests and was pivotal in guiding effective policy making and strategy development, and constitutes a base for future periodical evaluations. The 2006 report launched a more systematic process, which has since been further developed. It also responded to Axis 2 of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan, which provided for the establishment of a regional observatory. In 2007, the European Union backed this process with the following main objectives: (i) establish a system to monitor the natural and socio-economic environment of forest ecosystems in Central Africa based on a series of indicators; (ii) coordinate the publication every two years of a “Report on the State of the Forests”, and (iii) launch the establishment of the Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa (OFAC) for the benefit of COMIFAC member countries.

This observatory allows COMIFAC and CBFP members to have at their disposal an essential steering tool and knowledge-sharing system for improved governance and sustainable management of forest ecosystems. To respond to the above objectives, OFAC coordinated the 2008 State of the Forest Report. The report provided an update on the economic and biodiversity components of the forest as well as on changes in the amount of forest cover in the 6 forested COMIFAC member countries. The part that consisted of cross-cutting chapters dealt with environmental services provided by the forest. Among these, particular emphasis was placed on factors affecting biodiversity, water resources, fuelwood production and climate. The third and last section of the report addressed zoning developments in the 12 CBFP landscapes.

OFAC continues to coordinate the State of the Forest reports, including this 2010 edition. As in the case of the 2008 report, this means providing a review as comprehensive as possible of the Congo Basin forest, its ecosystems, biodiversity and socio-economic situation. The current report seeks in particular to provide an update on the state of the Central African dense moist forests. With this in mind, it covers the 6 countries where this type of forest exists, i.e. Gabon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon and the Central African Republic. Future editions of the report will also include the four other COMIFAC member countries (Burundi, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe and Chad).

The design of the 2010 State of the Forest Report

The design of the 2010 State of the Forest report does not differ fundamentally from that of the 2008 report and relies on indicators decided on collectively by about sixty contributors. Data collection was organized from 2009 to 2010 using national groups consisting of four to ten members, depending on the countries, all of whom worked for public administrations dealing with forest issues. Data collected, covering for the most part 2008 and 2009, was validated during national workshops for public administration officials,

environmental NGO representatives, the private sector and development projects. The data served to support the inputs provided by contributors of chapters for the current report, under the supervision of internationally recognized scientific committees. Furthermore, a State of the Forest 2010 sub-regional validation workshop was organized from 29 to 30 March 2011 for about 100 participants working in forest management, comprising representatives from the ten COMIFAC member countries, and several of its partners.

Content of the 2010 State of the Forest Report

The report is divided into four main sections:

- Part I: The Central African forests: regional synthesis of monitoring indicators;
- Part II: Impact of the informal sectors on forest management in Central Africa;
- Part III: Current challenges facing forest management in Central Africa;
- Part IV: Landscape management.

The first part of the 2010 State of the Forest Report, consists of three chapters. The first chapter presents the most recent results available on spatial distribution and on developments in Congo Basin forests based on the use and analysis of a large number of satellite images that have been acquired over the past twenty years. The second chapter summarizes the current status

of forest management and the timber sector in Central Africa, based on data collected by OFAC and on surveys and discussions undertaken in the field with the principal actors involved in the forestry sector. This chapter highlights the developments in this sector since the publication of the 2008 State of the Forest Report. The third chapter summarizes information on the main groups and families of fauna and flora and on work that has been carried out on biodiversity conservation in Central Africa.

The second part of the report consists of four chapters. Chapter 4 analyzes the economic and social impact of small scale sawmills in the Congo basin, concentrating on sawn wood from the whole region that is being sold on domestic markets. Chapter 5 provides an overview of the

wood energy sector in Congo Basin countries, with particular emphasis on areas where woodfuel exploitation threatens its sustainability and the livelihoods of those who depend on it. Chapter 6 addresses the issue of bushmeat and is in itself an introduction to this subject. It seeks to provide a summary of the main information available on bushmeat in the Congo Basin since the beginning of the 1980s. Chapter 7 provides an overview of non-timber forest products in the Congo Basin and suggests possible ways to develop strategies for their sustainable management.

Part III includes two chapters. Chapter 8 is the logical follow-up to chapter 11 in the 2008 State of the Forest report which explained how the COMIFAC position was developed during the international negotiations on the 1997 Kyoto Protocol up until the end of the Poznań COP-14 in December 2008, on the eve of the Copenhagen COP-15. This chapter continues to explain this development from Copenhagen onwards, including Cancún COP-16, prior to the Durban COP-17. Chapter 9 analyzes the impact of the 2008-9 world economic crisis on sustainable forest management and outlines measures taken by the Governments of the 6 Congo Basin forest countries.

Finally, part IV of the 2010 report comprises chapters 10 and 11. Chapter 10 provides an overview of the management of protected areas in CBFP countries. It completes the description of national systems for protected areas presented in previous editions of the State of the Forest reports. It also provides a brief insight into the threats faced by the protected areas (PAs) in Central Africa, describes the role to be played by the Congo Basin PA network in the context of broader conservation by COMIFAC and its series of priority conservation landscapes, and analyzes the current constraints for the establishment of functional and sustainable management of the protected areas in Central Africa. Chapter 11 reviews experiences in forest zoning in Central Africa, presenting two case studies that illustrate national experiences: the first was in Cameroon several decades ago and the second shows the efforts currently being undertaken in DRC. This chapter also updates zoning concepts and planning at the local level.