

IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

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South-South Exchange meeting on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity.
Montreal, July 9, 2009

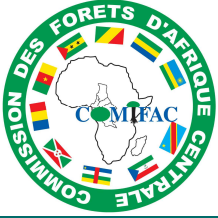
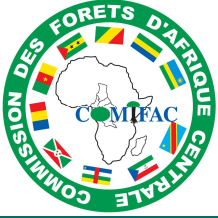


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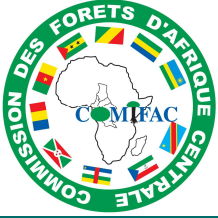
- Existing international arrangements in Central Africa
- Added value for mainstreaming SFM and major achievements
- Opportunities for implementation
- Obstacles for implementation
- Opportunities for South-South Cooperation



EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA^{1/7}

➤ BACKGROUND

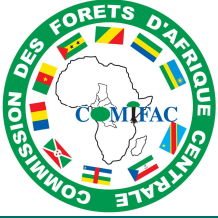
- **March 1999, Yaounde:** 1st Central African Heads of State Summit and taking of political commitment by leaders through the signing of the Yaounde Declaration on the conservation and sustainable management of forests ecosystems
- **December 2000, Yaounde:** Establishment of COMIFAC by the first Council of Ministers in charge of Forests in Central Africa and drafting of a sub-regional convergence plan



EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE CONGO BASIN SUB-REGION^{2/7}

➤ **BACKGROUND (Continued)**

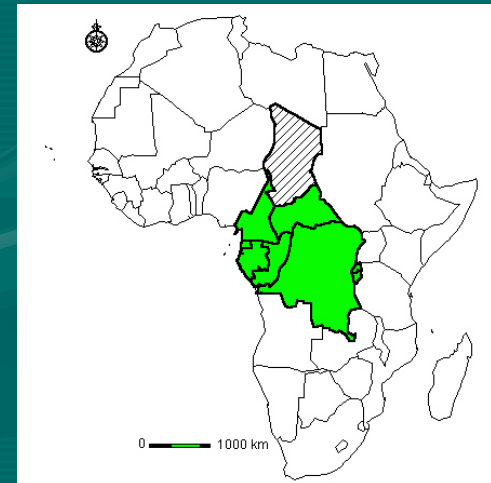
- **June 2002, Yaounde:** 2nd ordinary Council of Ministers in charge of Forests and establishment of COMIFAC headquarters in Yaounde, Cameroon
- **February 2005, Brazzaville:** 2nd Heads of State Summit in Brazzaville – signing of Treaty to establish COMIFAC and adoption of convergence plan



EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA_{3/7}

➤ COMIFAC: ITS MEMBERSHIP

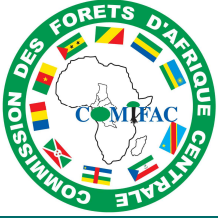
The Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) is an intergovernmental body comprising 10 (ten) member states of Central Africa in and adjacent to Congo Basin



➤ COMIFAC: ITS MANDATE

COMIFAC is responsible for the orientation, harmonization, coordination and monitoring of forest and environment policies and initiatives in Central Africa.



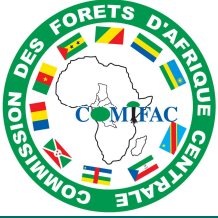


EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA_{4/7}

➤ COMIFAC: ITS ORGANS

- Summit of Heads of State and Government
- Council of Ministers
- Executive Secretariat

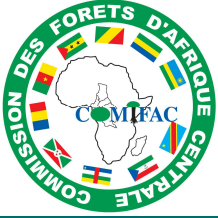




EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA^{5/7}

➤ COMIFAC: IT'S CONVERGENCE PLAN

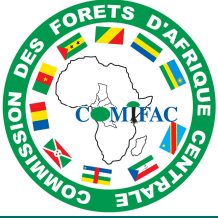
- It is a **platform or framework** for member states and partners to take priority actions regarding conservation and sustainable forest management. It has ten strategies areas:
 1. Harmonization of forest and taxation policies
 2. Knowledge of resources
 3. Management of ecosystems and reforestation
 4. Biodiversity conservation
 5. Sustainable valorization of forest resources
 6. Development of alternative activities and reduction of poverty
 7. Capacity building, involvement of actors and training
 8. Research-development
 9. Development of funding mechanisms
 10. Cooperation and partnership



EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA^{6/7}

➤ **COMIFAC: LINK WITH THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

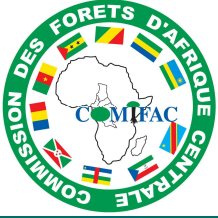
- Focal points: Ministry in charge of forests or/and of the environment
- Executive Secretariat Representative: National Coordinator



EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA^{7/7}

➤ **COMIFAC: LINK WITH OTHERS SUB-REGIONAL INITIATIVES**

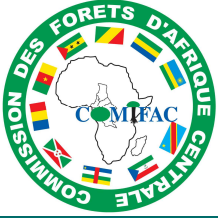
- CEFDHAC: Management of consultation processes within sub-regional and national fora
- ADIE: Environmental information management and dissemination to all stakeholders
- OCFSA: Biodiversity conservation and combating poaching across national borders
- OAB: Management of issues relating to forest economy, forest certification and trade in forest products
- RAPAC: Management of network of national protected areas



ADDED VALUE FOR MAINSTREAMING SFM AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS^{1/4}

➤ REGIONAL LEVEL

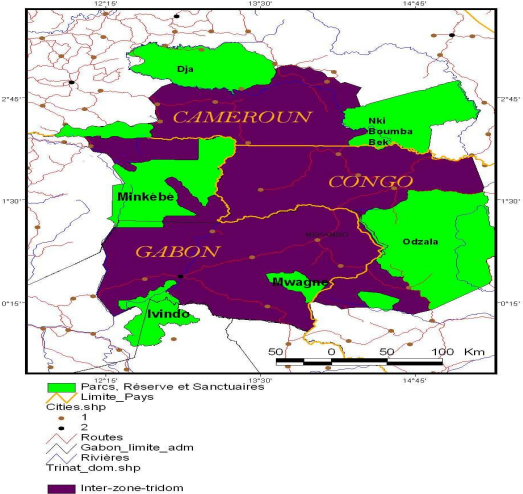
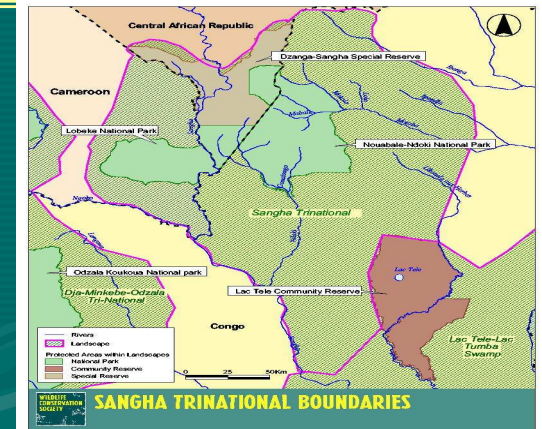
- **Policy harmonization:** signing of a control agreement for timber exploitation, adoption of a guidelines or directives on sustainable management of non timber forests products (NTFP), adoption of ATO/ITTO Principle-Criteria-Indicators (PCI) for SFM
- **Creation of regional forests observatory (OFAC):** publication of the state of forests every two years (2006, 2008)
- **Reforestation and management of ecosystems:** adoption of the Sub-regional Action Plan to Combating the lands Degradation and Desertification (PASR-LCD)

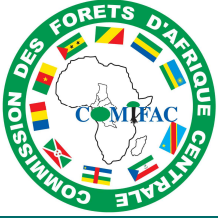


ADDED VALUE FOR MAINSTREAMING SFM AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS_{2/4}

➤ REGIONAL LEVEL (continued)

- **Biodiversity conservation:**
Creation of 2 transboundary
Protected areas: trilateral
Sangha (2.8 millions ha) &
trilateral Dja-Odzala-Minkebe
(14.6 millions ha)

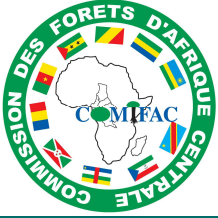




ADDED VALUE FOR MAINSTREAMING SFM AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS_{3/4}

➤ REGIONAL LEVEL (continued)

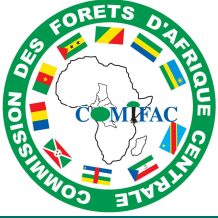
- **Capacity Building:** promotion of the dialogue for the implementation of AFLEG within a regional Task Force, organization of regional workshop or training session on thematic issues, creation of thematic working group
- **Financial mechanism:** creation of tri-national Sangha Trust Fund, ongoing development of COMIFAC's autonomous funding mechanism



ADDED VALUE FOR MAINSTREAMING SFM AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS_{4/4}

➤ NATIONAL LEVEL

- Adoption of the new national forests laws in many countries
- Creation of new protected areas (PA) in many countries; estimated area: 7 millions ha
- Development of sustainable management of forest concession: 22% production forests under SM
- Development of forest certification: 3.5 millions ha forests certified FSC
- Promotion of forests law enforcement and governance (AFLEG): VPA with EC, independant observer, etc.
- Development of the Community forestry in some countries and retrocession of the Annual Forest Royalties (FRG) at the local government agencies and communities

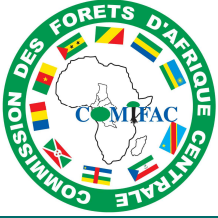


OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA^{1/4}

➤ Development of a regional partnership called CBFP

- A type « II » partnership based on a voluntary agreement between members
- Involves Partners with different expertise for biodiversity, forest conservation and SFM
- Aim: support the implementation of Yaounde Declaration and the Convergence Plan

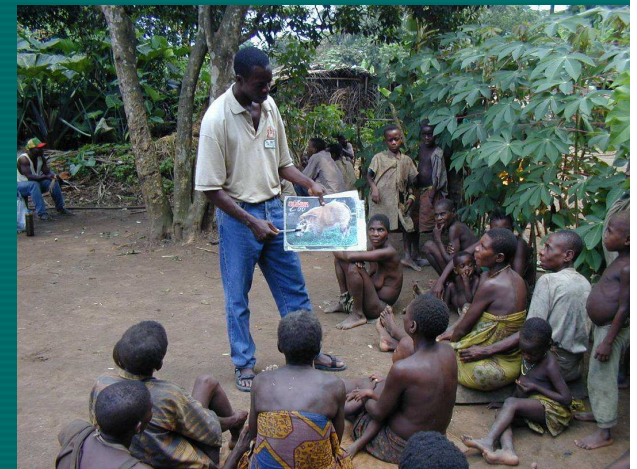


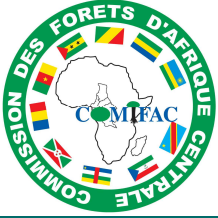


OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA_{2/4}

➤ Existence of regional dialogue between all stakeholders (CEFDHAC)

- Implication of the Autochthones and Local People in the SFM in Central Africa (Creation of Autochthones and Local People Network called **REPALEAC**)
- Implication of the Parliamentarians in the SFM in Central Africa (Creation of Central African Parliamentarians Network called **REPAR**)
- Implication of women and youths in the SFM with the creation of regional women network and regional youth network on SFM
- Existence of national forum in different countries and a regional forum

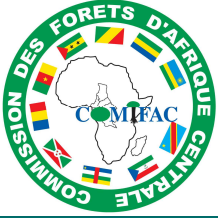




OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA_{3/4}

➤ Creation of thematic working group

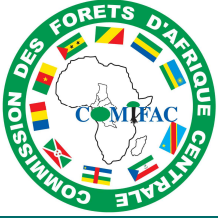
- Working Group on biodiversity (GTBAC)
- Working Group on climate change (WG-UNFCCC)
- Working Group on SFM (WG-UNFF)
- Working Group on land degradation and desertification (WG-UNCCC)
- Working Group on governance (Task Force AFLEF/FLEGT)



OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA_{4/4}

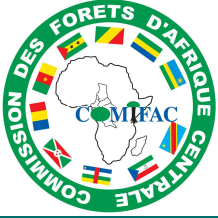
➤ **Existence of some financial resources**

- **Bilateral financial support: Germany (GTZ project), France, etc.**
- **Multilateral financial funds: launching of Congo Basin forest funds with UK and Norway governments, GEF funding (TRIDOM project), ADB support, etc.**
- **Innovative financial resources: TNS trust fund**



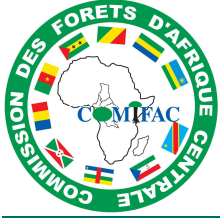
OBSTACLES FOR IMPLEMENTATION^{1/1}

- **Insufficient financial resources:** Existing funding mechanisms are not enough to support the implementation of the convergence plan which the total amount has been estimated at 2,0 billions US dollars
- **Lack of autonomous funding mechanism:** to support the implementation of the COMIFAC institutional arrangements
→ compromising the “perenity” of all the efforts and achievements
- **Weakness of capacities in the sub-region:** growing needs for specialized training on new international issues as REDD, ABS, PES, remote sensing, GIS, etc.
- **Lack of appropriate technologies as:** satellite reception station, GIS and mapping equipments, etc.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION^{1/1}

- Development of capacity building: exchange of experiences among experts, organization of training session
- Cooperation for the development of the innovative funding mechanisms for SFM (PES, ABS, REDD, etc.)
- Partnership for the transfer of technologies between region
- Development of a cooperative platform between regional organizations: ensuring the implementation of the convened activities



THANK YOU

