

## Participation in RdP 20 (PFBC)

### Context

The 20th Meeting of the Parties (RdP20) of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) took place from 3 to 5 June 2024 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. The RdP20 was highlighted by the face-to-face participation of several high-level political leaders from Central African countries and donor countries, high-level representatives from the private sector, regional and international organisations and institutions, and civil society.

The RdP20 is co-facilitated by the governments of France and Gabon. It was preceded, from 31 May to 1 June 2024, by a Youth Forum which brought together various youth networks from Central Africa, with the aim of encouraging the emergence of environmental leaders.

In collaboration with the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), and with the support of the Democratic Republic of Congo, these meetings were a highlight of 2024 for the preservation of the Congo Basin forests.

The CBFP's RdP20 comes in a decisive year for the environment, marked by the Conferences of the Parties to the three Rio Conventions. As such, it represents a key milestone in the dialogue to preserve Central Africa's forests, playing an essential role in progress towards the objectives defined by the COMIFAC Convergence Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals.

### Activities

The 3-day schedule for RdP 20 included plenary sessions based around 6 thematic workshops and side-events organised by various technical and financial partners, as well as the host country (DRC).

I co-organised a series of sessions during RdP 20 organised in Kinshasa. In particular, the two side-events *on primary forests*, on 3 June 2024 from 6pm to 7.30pm, and the one *on Transhumance from the sky*, which was included in the "*Transhumance day*" session at RdP 20 on 4 June.

I took part in the sessions of Workshop 1 on 30X30 on 4 June, presenting in the morning the steps involved in selecting and identifying OECMs, followed by an example on sacred forests.

I took part in the side-event "*Applying remote sensing technology in improving the understanding of tropical ecosystem dynamics*" organised on 4 June, during which the PANGEA Scoping mission presentation was given by 2 experts from the DRC.

I took part in the side-event organised on 5 June by civil society on the decision to halt the export of logs in the CEMAC zone.

I took part in the session organised by CIFOR-ICRAF on 6 June to make progress on the drafting of the publication State of Forest (SOF 2024) on the monitoring of international conventions in Central Africa and that on the identification of priority themes that will be the subject of studies as part of the implementation of the OFAC-CE project.

## Other activities

Alongside the CBFP sessions, my participation in RdP 20 was an opportunity to develop collaborations and meet new players in the region.

Regarding PANGEA presentation at the side-event organised by USFS, the discussions enabled us to better explain the added value of this initiative, which is currently being consolidated. There is a lot of interest in this initiative, which means we can remain optimistic that it will be feasible and validated by the end of the year.

## Conclusion

RdP 20 provided an opportunity to highlight the crucial role played by the forests of the Congo Basin in regulating the climate and other ecological processes.

It also provided an opportunity for the Co-facilitation to present the initial results of the ongoing evaluation of the Partnership's governance and vision since its inception. Indeed, the complexity of the region and the competitiveness of the actions and players mean that we need to take stock of the CBFP's action since it was set up and prepare for the transition to the next Facilitation in 2025.

*I would like to thank the PANGEA project for paying part of my stay, which enabled me to participate effectively in the various projects and to organise the two side-events that had been selected.*

Florence PALLA



## Annexes

<https://zoom-eco.net/a-la-une/20e-reunion-des-parties-pfbc-la-rdc-ouverte-aux-discussions-pour-ameliorer-la-comprehension-des-forets-primaires/>









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