

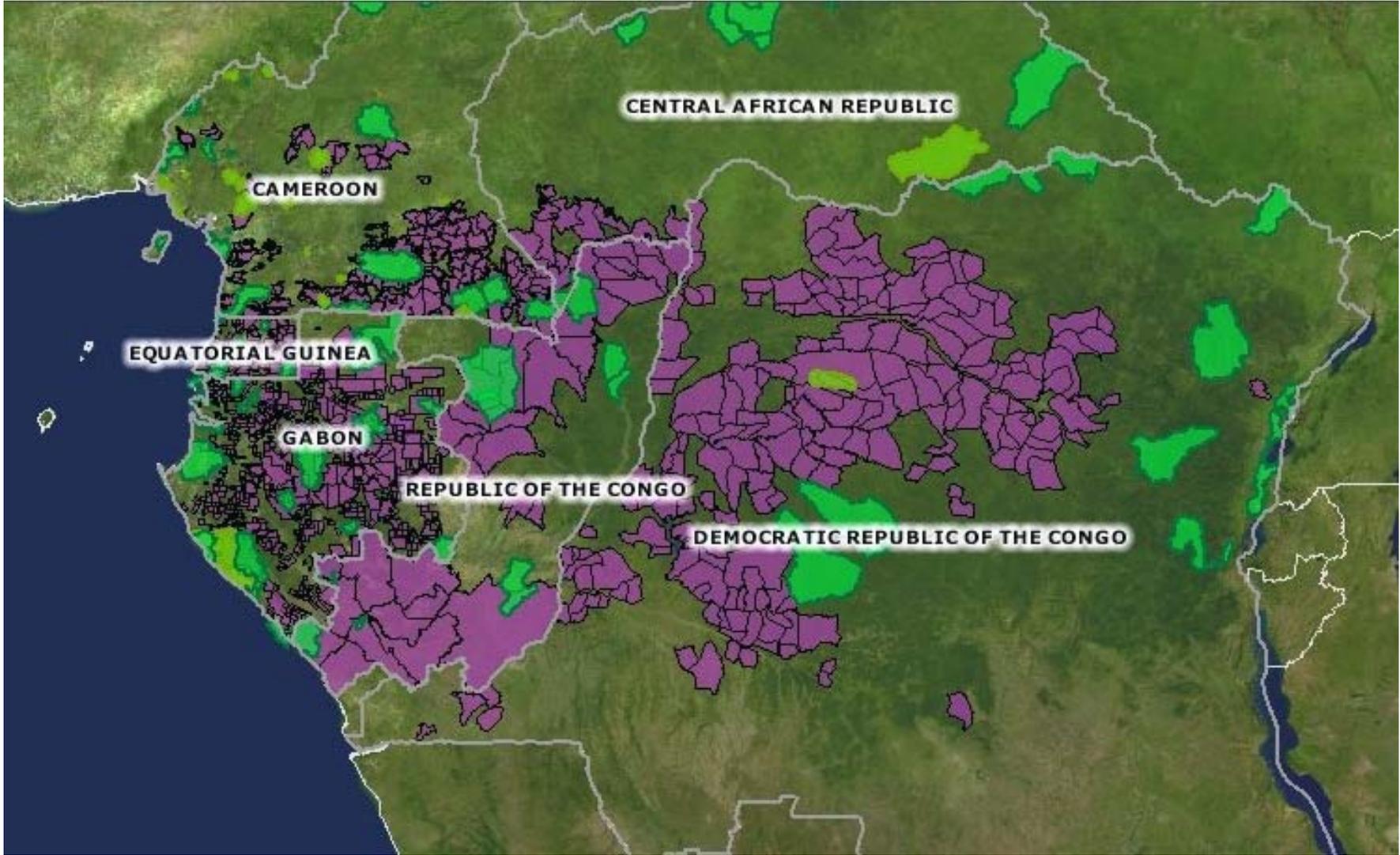
A photograph of a dense, lush green forest covering rolling hills and mountains. The foreground is filled with various types of trees and dense foliage. In the background, several mountain ranges are visible, with the furthest ones appearing hazy and blue. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text is centered over the middle of the image.

**A model law  
for the sustainable management of  
Non-Wood Forest Products  
in Central Africa**

# Why a model law on NWFP?

## Key issues

- clarification of access to (production, protection) forests (concessions, parks) for commercial uses of NWFP
- lack of sustainable use of NWFP leads to resource depletion (incompatible with SFM, certification, biodiversity conservation,...)
- existing (forest) legislation insufficient, creates conflicts among forest (NWFP, timber, conservation, farming) stakeholders (customary versus written law)



# process of its elaboration

- within the framework of the Plan de Convergence of COMIFAC / CBFP
- regional project: GCP/RAF/398/GER
- focal points in participating countries
- Interdisciplinary Working group
- Regional drafting/validation Workshops
- Draft Model Law on NTFP - November 07

# “The Yaoundé Process”

- First Summit of Heads of State of Central Africa (Yaoundé, March 1999)
  - A common declaration was signed: The Heads of State committed to support the conservation and sustainable management of Central African forests
- Conference of Ministers in charge of forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC) was established
- **Convergence plan** was drawn up



# Second Summit of Heads of State

(Brazzaville, February 2005)

- Signing of the Treaty  
“Central African Forest  
Commission” (COMIFAC)
- Adoption of the  
convergence plan
- Adoption of the principle to  
establish a sub-regional  
funding facility



# The Convergence plan

## 10 Strategic components

1. Harmonization of forest policies
2. Knowledge of the resources
3. Management of ecosystems and reforestation
4. Conservation of biological diversity
5. Sustainable use of forest resources
6. Introduction of alternative activities and poverty reduction
7. Strengthening of capacities, stakeholder participation, information and training
8. Research and development
9. Establishment of funding facilities
10. Cooperation and partnership



# The Congo Basin Forest Partnership

- Non-binding Type II partnership launched at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development
- 33 members of Governments, Intergovernmental Organisations, NGO, Private sector and research groups
- The CBFP's main objectives are to improve communication among its members and to support coordination between members' projects and programmes
- The partnership is facilitated by the one of member. The French facilitation will be followed by the German facilitation.



# Current major initiatives

- Forest Policies
  - Policies harmonization
  - National Forestry Programme through the PSFE approach (*Forest and Environmental Programme*)
- Forest Law Enforcement / illegal logging
  - Actions against illegal logging and poaching within the framework of the AFLEG
    - FLEFT
    - FORCOMS (Forest Concession Monitoring System)



- Alternative activities and poverty reduction
  - NWFP : consumption, small & medium enterprises
  - Agro forestry
  - Ecotourism and Communities wildlife management
- Capacity building
  - FORINFO (forestry training)
  - EU Project ENEF & ERAIFT
  - Social & Environmental Components of the Management Plan
  - RIL training (forest workers)



# Content of NWFP Model law

- **General dispositions** (object, applicability, definitions, criteria,..)
- **Access to NWFP** (type of access, user rights, harvesting titles with norms and procedures to obtain, content of exploitation title, cahier des charges, ..)
- **NWFP market chains** (harvesting, transport, processing and commercialization procedures)
- **Final dispositions** (Taxation, Special Fund)
- **Infractions and sanctions** (Infractions, sanctions, controle)
- **Institutional dispositions and capacity strength.** (institutional set-up, capacity building)
- **Fiscal dispositions** (competent authorities, procedures for the implementation of the model law)
- **Annexes** (procedures for permit requests, NWFP identification criteria,

# Next steps

- Submission of draft Model Law to COMIFAC
- Adoption by countries and Adjusting to national context with elaboration of application texts in each country
- Approval and implementation by participating countries



**Thank You!**

**GCP/RAF/398/GER Project team**

**FAO, Yaounde, Cameroon**

**Regional project website:**

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/webview/pageview.jsp?pageld=44493&geold=-1&langId=1>