



## CONCEPT NOTE

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FORESTRY TRAINING

#### *“ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF TRAINING FOR SUSTAINABLY MANAGING THE CONGO BASIN FORESTS”*

**MARCH 5-7, 2018**  
**SAWA Hotel, Douala, Cameroon**

#### **Background**

Comprehensive knowledge of forest ecosystems promotes better conservation and adequate protection as well as the management and enhancement of its biodiversity. The Congo Basin sub-region harbors the second-largest tropical rainforest formation in the world and covers over two million<sup>1</sup> km<sup>2</sup>. As one of the major reservoirs of biodiversity (half of the world's tropical forests), it requires skilled human resources to ensure its sustainable management. The forest-environment sector is currently facing a lack of harmonization between training and required employment skills, which causes difficulty for stakeholders when planning to implement development plans for industrialization aimed at the further processing of raw materials.

The findings of the study conducted by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in five countries of the Congo Basin in 2007 reported a lack of skilled management-level personnel required for sustainable forest management. In view of the major issue that constitutes biodiversity preservation, the ITTO Secretariat and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB) Secretariat decided to extend support to the Central Africa Forestry and Environment Training Institutions Network (RIFFEAC), in connection with the implementation of a sub-regional project aimed at significantly addressing the lack of management-level staff in forestry.

RIFFEAC is a platform composed of twenty-two forestry and environment training institutions distributed across nine African countries. RIFFEAC serves as the technical partner for the Central Africa Forest Commission (COMIFAC) with regard to the implementation of the training and research-related strategic component of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan. This component is the reference tool in the sub-regional policy for the sustainable management of Central African forests.

Through project PD 456/07 and its core thematic pillars, ITTO enabled the development of reference training modules appropriate for the sustainable management of tropical forests. For operationalizing training modules, ITTO provided equipment and infrastructure to seven forestry and environment training institutions distributed across five countries in the Congo Basin. Provided equipment and infrastructure should facilitate

---

<sup>1</sup> Marie Joannidis (2010). Une réunion pour sauver les poumons de la planète.



the implementation of the reference training modules in forest management in the sub-region, with the aim of training skilled management-level forestry personnel which will be responsible for implementing sustainable forest management (SFM) while reconciling biodiversity conservation and the well-being of local communities.

### **Objectives**

During the international conference, the participants representing a diversity of stakeholders will evaluate progress achieved in the field of training, with the noble aim of sustainably managing the Congo Basin forests.

In particular, the Conference will:

- Highlight harmonized modules and programs with a view to optimizing forestry training
- Promote the sharing of experiences and lessons learned through mainstreaming the new modules in the training programs;
- Determine priority actions and measures necessary for appropriately addressing issues posed by forestry training in the sub-region;
- Establish new partnerships or build up existing ones for improving training, i.e., harmonizing training with required employment skills, with a view to the sustainable management of the forest-environment sector and its change towards the further processing of raw materials.

### **Expected Outcomes:**

Discussions and consultations conducted during the Conference will lead to the following outcomes for the stakeholders in the long term:

- Enhanced awareness of importance, threats, and opportunities associated with forestry and environment training in the sub-region;
- Improved knowledge and mainstreaming of reference training modules in training programs;
- Improved ability of RIFFEAC member institutions to solve issues posed by forestry training and to draw on opportunities such issues may provide;
- Better support of reference training modules implementation across training institutions in the sub-region;
- Consolidated strategic alliances and partnerships for the benefit of RIFFEAC institutions.

### **Date, Venue, Co-organizers, Prospective Participants, Working Language**

- **Date:** March 5-7, 2018
- **Venue:** Hotel SAWA (488, rue de Verdun-Bonanjo, Douala, Cameroon)
- **Co-organizers:** International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and Central Africa Forestry and Environment Training Institutions Network (RIFFEAC), under the high patronage of Cameroon's Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF).



- **Prospective Participants:** About 150 participants (officials and high-level government officers in charge of forestry management in partner countries, development partners, financial and technical partners, ITTO representatives, officials in charge of forestry and environment training in COMIFAC member countries, forestry sector teaching staff and students in RIFFEAC member institutions, representatives from forest concession/industry operators.
- **Working Language:** French (interpretation / translation into English will be provided)

## Draft Agenda

### Day 1: March 5, 2018

Time	Duration	Topic	Facilitator / Moderator
<b>Opening Session:</b> SAWA Room I / Protocol (MINFOF, Cameroon)			
9:30	10 min	Official Opening	Minister of Forests and Wildlife, Cameroon
9:40	10	Opening Statement	COMIFAC's Executive Secretary
09:50	10	Address 1	Minister of Forest Economy, Republic of Congo
10:00	10	Address 2	Minister of Higher and University Education, Democratic Republic of Congo
10h10	10	Address 3	Minister of Forests, Sea and Environment, Gabon
10h20	10	Address 4	Minister of Higher Education, Central African Republic
10h30	10	Address 5	Japan Cooperation
10h40	10	Address 6	Switzerland Cooperation
10h50	10	Address 7	Belgium Cooperation
11:00	10	Address 8	ITTO Executive Director
11:10	5	Summary and Announcement	Protocol: (MINFOF, Cameroon)
11:15	5	Photo Session	Secretariat
11:20		Coffee Break	
<b>Session I:</b> Presentations on Forestry Training Courses (University and Technical Levels) / Moderator: ITTO Representative			
11:40	40 min	Presentation on University-Level Forestry Training (20 min)	Laval University Representative, Canada
		Presentation on Technical-Level Forestry Training (20 min)	CERFOR Representative, Canada
12:20	20	Questions & Answers	Moderator
12:40	80	Lunch Break	
<b>Session II:</b> RIFFEAC's Role in Implementing the Training Component of COMIFAC's Convergence Plan / Moderator: Mr. Michel Babale, Director of Garoua Wildlife School ( <i>École de faune de Garoua</i> , EFG), Cameroon			
14:00	120	Presentations and Questions&Answers	
	20	Training and Dissemination of Information	ITTO Representative



		and Data by ITTO	
	15	Overview of RIFFEAC and of Guidelines on Forestry Training	Regional Coordinator
	15	Overview of ITTO Project PD 456/07 Rev.4 (F)	Project Technical Consultant
	40	Developing Reference Training Modules for the Sustainable Management of the Congo Basin Forests	GTT Member
	30	Questions&Answers	Moderator
16:00		Closing of Sessions	Moderator / Secretariat
16:30		Cocktail Function	

## Day 2: March 6, 2018

Time	Duration	Topic	Facilitator / Moderator
<b>Session III: Innovative Progress in Forestry Training at RIFFEAC</b>			
Sustaining the Outcomes of ITTO Project PD 456/07 / Moderator: Dr. François Hiol Hiol, Coordinator of CRESA Forêt-Bois			
9:30	20	<i>Faculté d'agronomie et d'agriculture, FASA, (Faculty of Agronomics and Agriculture), University of Dschang, Cameroon</i>	Dean
	20	<i>CRESA Forêt-Bois (Centre régional d'enseignement spécialisé en agriculture, CRESA) (Regional Center for Specialized Education in Agriculture - Forest-Timber), Yaoundé, Cameroon</i>	Coordinator
	20	<i>Institut supérieur de développement rural, ISDR (Higher Institute for Rural Development), Mbaïki, Central African Republic</i>	Director
	20	<i>École nationale des sciences agronomiques et forestières, ENSAF (National School of Agronomics and Forestry), Congo</i>	Director
10:50	10	Questions&Answers	Moderator
11:00	20	Coffee Break	
11:20	20	<i>École nationale des eaux et forêts, ENEF (National School of Water and Forestry), Gabon</i>	Director
	20	<i>École nationale des eaux et forêts, ENEF (National School of Water and Forestry), Mbalmayo, Cameroon</i>	Director
	20	<i>École régionale postuniversitaire d'aménagement et de gestion intégrés des forêts et territoires tropicaux, ERAIFT (Regional Post-Graduate Training School of Tropical Forest and Land Integrated</i>	Director



		Management), Democratic Republic of Congo	
12:00	20	Questions&Answers	Moderator
12:30	90	Lunch Break	
<b>Session IV:</b> Challenges of Forestry and Environment Training in Central Africa (Harmonizing Training and Required Employment Skills) / Moderator: ITTO Representative			
14:00	90	Presentation on the Challenges of Forestry and Environment Training in the Central Africa Sub-Region (Expert Panel)	Panel members (Government Forestry Administration, Forest Concession Operators, Trainers) Pr. Félix Koubouana Pr. Serge Bobo Kadiri Dr. Emery Kasongo
15:30	20	Coffee Break	
15:50	10	Summary	Moderator
16:00		Closing of Sessions	

### Day 3: March 7, 2018

Time	Duration	Topic	Facilitator / Moderator
<b>Session V:</b> Enhancing Performance in Forestry and Environment Training in Central Africa (Future Prospects) / Dr. Bruno Nkoumakali, ENEF General Director, Gabon			
9:30	60 min	Lessons Learned from Implementing Training-Related Projects	RIFFEAC Coordinator / Forestry Training Partners
	60	Priority Needs for Enhancing Performance in Forestry Training in Central Africa – Two Working Groups: University-related and Technical-related	University Teachers / Technical Teachers
11:30	30	Recommendations	
12:00	30	Final Statement	
12:30		Lunch Break	
14:00		<b>Closing of Conference</b>	