

# Sustainable Management of Tropical Rainforests and Biodiversity Conservation in the ITTO Congo Basin Countries



*La formation au cœur...*



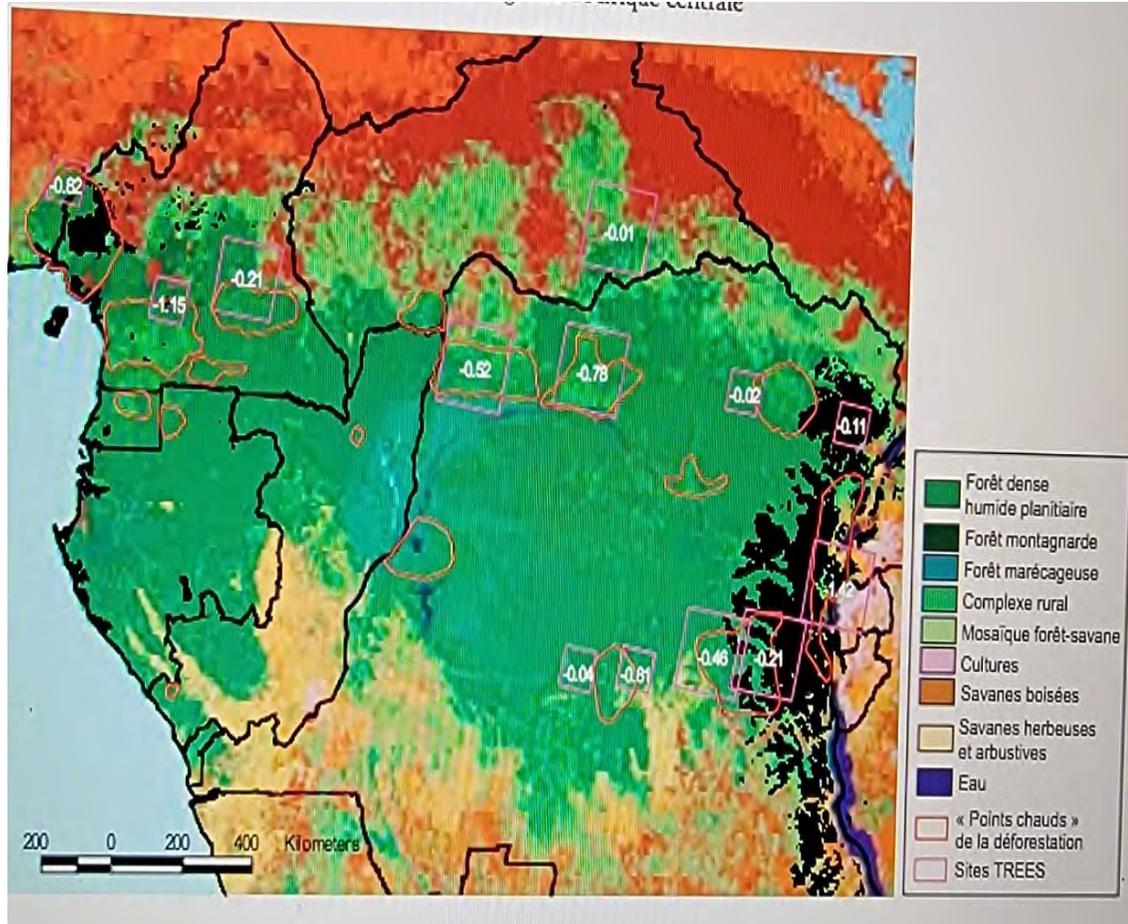
*...de la gestion durable*



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*ITTO Side Event at CBD COP 15 – Montréal*

# Overview of Congo Basin Forests



- Forests of the Congo Basin : second largest forest cover after the Amazon
- Forests are vital for people because of the many goods and services they provide. Such as wood products, water supplies, foods, medicines, cultural values, climate regulation, increased crop yields through pollination and opportunities for recreation.
- Important role in **mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects**
- Subject to **deforestation** and **forest degradation** activities **resulting in a threat to biological diversity**
- Thus, the mandate of RIFFEAC is to ensure **mainly training and research** in the transversal axis n°1 of the Convergence Plan of COMIFAC (Central African Forest Commission)

# **Main challenges faced by Congo Basin countries on SFM-related forestry training in relation LSSC requirements (I)**

- Demand for verification of legality and sustainability of forest products is progressively becoming a pre-condition to market access
- LSSC-related international initiatives are being promoted by many timber consumer countries (US Lacey Act, European Timber Regulation, Japan Clean Wood Act, etc.)
- Pressure of the international community is increasing on Congo Basin countries for the compliance with the above mentioned LSSC-related requirements
- Most Congo Basin countries are facing the shortage of qualified human resources able to comply with the LSSC-related international initiatives

# Main challenges faced by Congo Basin countries on SFM-related forestry training in correlation with LSSC requirements (II)

- Urgent need to develop a better understanding of **what needs to be done to integrate the different stages and procedures of supply chains**, from the tree in the forest to the consumer in the marketplace : *(i) forest inventories and planning, (ii) sustainable forest management practices, (iii) forest operations and production, (iv) verification and certification, (v) tracking and tracing techniques of forest products and (vi) processing and shipping to markets.*

# Brief description for taking stock of forestry training issues in Congo Basin countries (I)

Through the ITTO project PD 456/07 Rev.4 (F), RIFFEAC (Network of Central African forestry and environmental training institutions) has benefited from :

- *12 reference training modules / programmes and associated teaching methodologies (6 modules for master degree and 6 others for bachelor degree)*
- *Reinforcement of capacity of 7 RIFFEAC training institutions in five (5) countries of the Congo Basin with vehicles, forestry equipment, computer and accesories and /or building construction / rehabilitation*
- *International Conference on march 2018 on SFM and Training Challenges in Congo Basin for making expertise available and for information sharing*

# Brief description for taking stock of forestry training issues in Congo Basin countries (II)

Through the ITTO project PD 456/07 Rev.4 (F), RIFFEAC (Network of Central African forestry and environmental training institutions) has benefited from :

Countries (5)	Institutions (7)	Benefits
CAMEROUN	FASA DSCHANG	<i>Modules, vehicles, forestry equipment, computers and accesories and /or building construction / rehabilitation</i>
	CRESA	
	ENEF MBALMAYO	
CONGO	ENSAF	
GABON	ENEF GABON	
RCA	ISDR MBAIKI	
RDC	ERAIFT	

# Illegal logging of Congo Basin forests



- CIFOR report explain that **27%** of the Congo Basin's undisturbed tropical rainforest area observed in 2020 will be lost by 2050 if deforestation and forest degradation continue at the same rate.
- **Responsible logging prevents conversion by giving forests an economic value.** Well-managed forests, following strict social and environmental standards, provide income for local people without threatening their ability to regenerate. In short, let us encourage Certification of tropical forests

# Reduced Impact Forestry Training (RIFT)

- The application of Reduced Impact Logging techniques is one of the most requested improvements in the responsible forestry certification process.
- Previous experiences have already demonstrated the need and feasibility of training in Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) techniques in the Congo Basin : (i) *Forest Inventory and Mapping*, (ii) *Road Planning and Construction*, (iii) *Controlled Felling*, (iv) *Planned Skidding*, (v) *Post Harvest Monitoring Operations*, (vi) *Forest First Aid* and (vii) *EFIR Management Training for Logging Managers*.

# Future prospects SFM, LSSC requirements and their impact on CBD goals

- The important and continuous challenge is to make a synergy between good Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains (LSSC) reinforced with the involvement of relevant stakeholders (public institutions, public and private companies, training institutions, local communities, NGOs, etc.)
- The principal benefits are the development of countries and the improvement of CBD with his 3 main goals : (i) the conservation of biodiversity, (ii) the sustainable use of its components and (iii) fair an equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources.

# Thanks for your attention

- Thanks to JICA and other donors for providing financial support for the RIFFEAC project and LSSC activity.
- Thanks to ITTO Secretariat and CBD for accompanying RIFFEAC in the progressive process of putting in place a critical mass of experts having the capability to deal with sustainable forest management practices, in general, and legal and sustainable supply chains (LSSC) and the Conservation of Biological Diversity.

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