

## Meeting of the Parties to the Congo Basin Forest Partnership

Monday, June 3, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

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### Round Table 3: Accelerating the development of sustainable value chains to benefit the economy, the environment and local populations

#### Talking Points - Panelists

**Theme 1:** In the context of the implementation of the Regulation against Deforestation and Forest Degradation (RDUE), what financial and technical support can be envisaged to support small producers in particular, in their transition towards greater traceability and transparency?

In the context of the implementation of the Regulation against Deforestation and Forest Degradation (RDUE), it is crucial to support small producers in their transition to more sustainable practices, focused on traceability and transparency. Here are some possible avenues for discussion:

#### Impact of the EUDR on small producers :

- What are the main challenges facing small producers as a result of the EUDR?
- How can the EUDR potentially affect the livelihoods and farming practices of small-scale producers?

#### Need for financial and technical support :

- What kind of financial and technical support is needed to help small producers adapt to EUDR requirements?
- How can governments, businesses and civil society organizations work together to provide this support effectively and equitably?

#### Promoting traceability and transparency:

- Why are traceability and transparency important for small producers and agricultural value chains?
- What specific challenges do small-scale producers face when it comes to implementing traceability and transparency systems?

#### Certification and market access opportunities :

- How can certifications such as organic or Fair Trade labels benefit small-scale producers in terms of market access and product value?
- What are the challenges involved in obtaining certification for small-scale producers, and how can they be overcome?

#### Innovative traceability technologies :

- What are the potential benefits of technologies such as blockchain or supply chain management systems for agricultural product traceability?

- How can these technologies be made accessible and affordable to small producers in rural areas?

**The role of multi-stakeholder partnerships :**

- How can multi-stakeholder partnerships between governments, businesses, NGOs and civil society help support small-scale producers in their transition to sustainable, transparent practices?
- What are the best practices for collaboration between the various stakeholders to ensure positive results for small-scale producers?

**Theme 2:** In your opinion, what are the main challenges and steps to be put in place for truly sustainable forest product value chains, from logging to utilization, in the countries of the Congo Basin, generating jobs and decent incomes while reconciling the long-term conservation of forest massifs?

Accelerating the development of sustainable value chains for forest products in the countries of the Congo Basin is a complex challenge, but crucial for the conservation of forest massifs and the well-being of local populations :

**The impact of climate change on forests:** How is climate change affecting forest ecosystems in the Congo Basin, and what measures can be taken to mitigate these impacts?

**Illegal logging:** What are the major challenges associated with illegal logging in the region, and what strategies can be adopted to combat the problem?

**The role of indigenous peoples in forest conservation:** How can the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples contribute to the sustainable management of Congo Basin forests?

**Balancing conservation and economic development:** How can we reconcile the conservation of forest areas with the need for economic development and job creation in the region?

**Funding opportunities for forest conservation:** What are the potential sources of funding to support forest conservation initiatives in the Congo Basin and how can these resources be mobilized effectively?

**Protected area management:** What are the benefits and challenges of creating and managing protected areas in the region, and how can we ensure their effectiveness?

**Adding value to non-timber forest products:** Apart from wood, what other non-timber forest products could be economically valued while preserving forest ecosystems?

**Public-private partnerships for conservation:** What is the role of public-private partnerships in promoting forest conservation and how can they be strengthened?

**Technological innovation for forest monitoring:** How can new technologies such as remote sensing and artificial intelligence be used to monitor and protect the forests of the Congo Basin?

**Lessons learned from successful conservation initiatives:** What forest conservation initiatives in other regions of the world could serve as models or sources of inspiration for the Congo Basin?

**Theme 3:** How can the private sector contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic development in the Bassi region of Congo, by promoting local products and strengthening the capacities of small players?

The private sector can play a crucial role in the economic, sustainable and inclusive development of the Congo Basin by adding value to local production and building the capacities of small players. Some strategies that the private sector could adopt include:

**Impact of private investment:** What is the real impact of private sector investment on the region's economic and social development? What are the successes and challenges encountered in implementing private projects in the Congo Basin?

**Promoting local businesses:** How can private companies better promote and support local small businesses and entrepreneurial initiatives in the region? What are the best practices for building the capacities of local players and fostering their economic growth?

**Environmental sustainability:** How can the private sector contribute to environmental conservation and sustainable natural resource management in the Congo Basin? What are the challenges and opportunities of adopting environmentally-friendly business practices in the region?

**Public-private partnerships:** What are the advantages and disadvantages of public-private partnerships in economic development in the Congo Basin? How can these partnerships be better structured and managed to maximize benefits for all stakeholders?

**Innovation and technology:** How can the private sector stimulate innovation and the adoption of advanced technologies in key industries in the Congo Basin, such as agriculture, forestry and energy? What are the successful examples of private companies introducing technological innovations in the region?

**Corporate social responsibility:** To what extent are private companies in the Congo Basin assuming their social and environmental responsibilities? How can they improve their corporate social responsibility policies and practices to have a positive impact on local communities and the environment?