

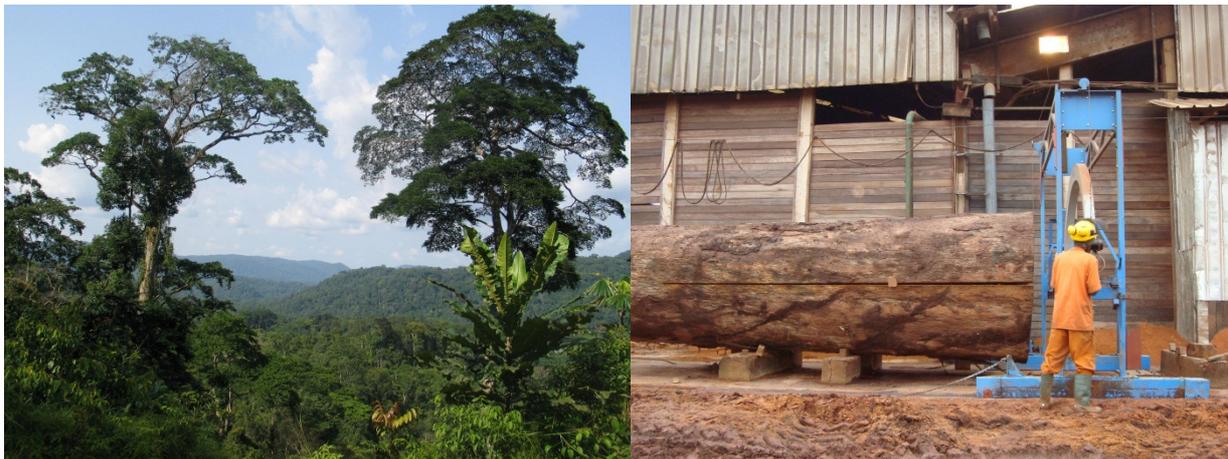


Brochure

Congo Basin Program

Introduction

The Congo Basin Program is a large-scale public-private partnership aiming to increase the responsible production and trade of tropical timber. The Congo Basin Program (CBP) is part of the Tropical Timber Program of the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH). The CBP supports concession holders on their way to sustainable forest management and the certification thereof. Key partners are WWF/GFTN, ICCO/FSAS, FSC Netherlands and FSC national offices.



Ambitions of the Congo Basin Program

The CBP anticipates to include both large and small producers in the process. The focus lies on Gabon, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Congo Republic but other African countries are not excluded. The objectives of the program are classified into certification, market and objectives for the creation of an enabling environment:

Certification

- 4 million hectares of additional certified natural forest;
- Improvements on already FSC certified concessions for 1.5 million hectares;

Market

- Increase local processing by 25% for at least 5 companies;
- Link small producers and/ or community forests to timber market;

Enabling environment

- Capacity building of local NGOs through the buddy-system;
- Good example of FSC certification in DRG.

Services

The CBP's core component to realize the objectives is a fund through which concession holders can apply for co-funding of 9 relevant services (see the table below). For those companies that are not yet FSC certified, 50% of the costs of these 9 services will be covered by the Congo Basin Program.

Service		Non-certified concessions	FSC certified concessions
A	Pre-audit	50%	-
B	Initial audit	50%	-
C	Reduced Impact Logging training (RIL)	50%	25%
D	Consultation framework between concession holder and local communities	50%	25%
E	HCVF analysis and monitoring plan	50%	25%
F	(Semi-)commercial partnership between forest company and local community	50%	50%
G	Advice on optimisation of supply chain	50%	50%
H	Social training	50%	25%
I	Internal audit and expert advice	25%	25%

The services will be delivered by a rigorously selected pool of service providers. A catalogue has been compiled that includes a description of each of the services and a list of approved service providers (see our website for the latest version of the catalogue). Consequently, concession holders are free to work with a service provider of its choice.

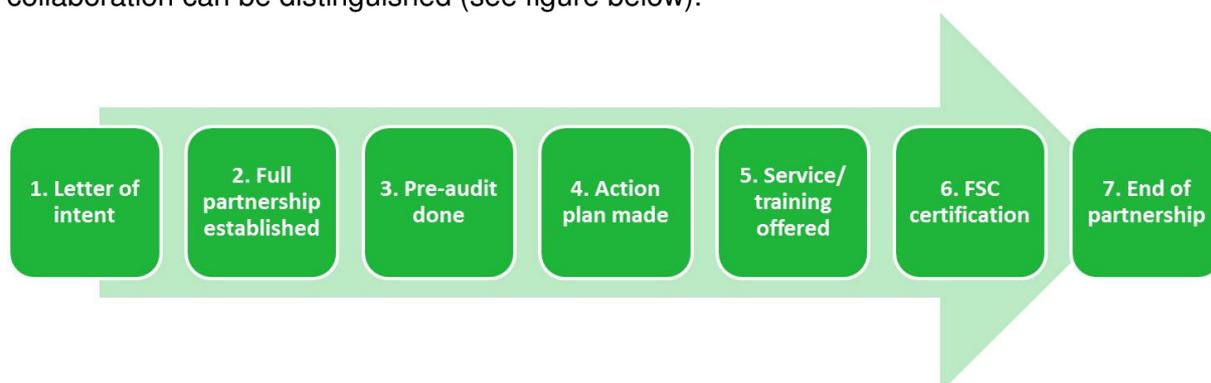
Why join ?

Four main reasons for joining this program:

1. Become one of the front runners in working towards the sustainable & responsible production of tropical timber;
2. Benefit from co-financing of a variety of relevant services offered by this unique program;
3. Benefit from a large pool of expertise;
4. Contribute to a positive image of the African timber sector.

Collaboration

If a forest company is seriously interested in participating in the CBP, seven stages of collaboration can be distinguished (see figure below).



1. Letter of intent

Once a company or community forester has expressed interest in participating in the Congo Basin Program, they can sign a letter of intent with the CBP. After a letter of intent has been signed, the CBP secretary has time to investigate whether the interested company has the right resources and commitment needed to complete the entire process and that there are no major illegalities or conflicts present concerning their forest management. For more detailed information, see the [selection procedure](#).

2. Establishment of partnership

If both parties agree on cooperating in the CBP, this will lead to signing of a partnership agreement. In this agreement the details of the cooperation are included: objective(s), concession details (number of concessions, ha's).

3. Pre-audit executed

The next step is that the concession holder will have a pre-audit performed to determine the current level vis-à-vis the certification standard. In addition, the CBP Secretariat will perform a Needs Analysis & Assessment (NAA) in order to have a clear overview what the major issues are to work on and what services could be useful for the concession holder.

4. Action plan elaborated

Based on the pre-audit and the NAA, the concession holder will have to prepare an action plan. This includes a planning of all activities that need to be done in order to become certified plus the services that are foreseen to be off taken and co-funded by the CBP. If the action plan is sound and feasible, it will be approved by the Program Secretary and the concession holder is ready to start.

5. Services and training delivered

A total of nine services have been identified to support concession holders. For every service, a number of approved service providers are listed in the services catalogue. A forest company is free to select the service provider with whom he wishes to cooperate. After a final offer is concluded between the forest company and the service provider, the Program Secretary gives its approval and the service can be provided. In the [services catalogue](#), more information can be found on the provision of services.

6. Initial audit

If everything has gone well, the concession holder will obtain an FSC certificate after the main audit. Or in the case of improvements of existing FSC certified concessions, an improvement will be measured (decrease in the number of CARs - Corrective Action Requests).

7. End of partnership

After all objectives as stated in the partnership agreement have been achieved, the partnership will end.

Partners



The Congo Basin Program's implementation is coordinated by Form international, a Dutch consultancy firm specialised in sustainable forest management and certification.



IDH is the main funder and also plays a role in advising and supporting Form in its role as program coordinator.



ICCO supports the Congo Basin Program with a financial contribution and with their expertise on the social aspects.



In the Congo Basin Program, WWF acts as an advisor on forest management and public-private partnerships, on quality control of IDH service providers and on monitoring of the CBP in general. A particularly close collaboration is envisaged regarding activities in DRC.



Fair Tropical Timber (FTT) is in charge of the realisation of group certification of community forests in Cameroon.



PPECF is a program of the COMIFAC supported by the German development bank, KfW. The CBP and the PPECF share the same objective to increase the forest area under responsible management in the Congo Basin region.



Rougier Group is the first partner of the CBP with 4 concessions of the Société Forestière et Industrielle de la Doumé (SFID) in Cameroun, covering a total surface of 470,000 hectares.



The company Corà Wood Gabon is partnering with the Congo Basin Program with two concessions covering a surface of nearly 400,000 hectares.



ALPICAM participates in the Congo Basin Program with 4 concessions in Cameroun covering a total surface of 364,000 hectares.



Wijma Cameroun signed a contract with the CBP for 4 concessions covering a total surface of 319,395 hectares.



« Since 3 generations, via constant progress and innovation and now with an incomparable know-how, GROUPE ALPI spa brings an exceptional added value to the forest. Today resolutely engaged in sustainable management of this resource, ALPICAM finds with the CBP-IDH initiative a pragmatic partner, ideal to achieve in 2015 the objective of forest certification. »

Certification in DRC

In co-lead with WWF, the Congo Basin Program has developed a proposal on how to best engage with forest companies in DRC. Basically, first step is to execute a participative land-use planning process before a contract is signed with a forest company and a formal cooperation starts to work towards responsible forest management and FSC certification.

Community Forests

It has been concluded that semi-commercial partnerships between community foresters and forest companies are not a viable option. An interesting and promising alternative is to go for group certification of 8 community forests. A certification process will aim to obtain certified legality in phase 1 and an FSC group certificate in phase 2. Having experience in trading with Cameroonian community forests, Fair Tropical Timber (FTT) will fulfil a key role in this.



Wijma Cameroun S.A.

« A pioneer of forest certification in the Congo Basin, Wijma Cameroon SA was the first company in the region to become FSC TM certified in 2005.

In December 2011, Wijma Cameroon SA was also the first company to obtain a certificate FSC TM Group Management (Group Wijma Cameroon) in the Congo Basin. Given its long experience in forest management, Wijma Cameroon SA has decided to share his experience in accompanying several other companies in this way. Thus, with support and accompaniment, companies CAFECO SA, CFK SA and SCIEB SA were certified respectively in 2010, 2011 and 2012 on all of their titles. Wijma Cameroon SA has decided to join the CBP to be supported in his efforts and determination to maintain its FSC TM certificates, those of its partners and to support new companies on this track.»



« ROUGIER Group is strongly committed to the process of certification of good forest management. As this process is long and mobilizes many resources both human and financial, a program such as IDH is very useful to support companies like ROUGIER in helping them to achieve this certification. That's why we decided to become the first partner in this program. »

Contribution to sustainability

Sustainable forest management (SFM) is seen as one of the most appropriate tools to tackle deforestation. SFM contributes to issues such as biodiversity preservation and the socially and economically responsible use of forests. Worldwide, forests play a very important role in the livelihood of people. Sustainable forest management can contribute not only to the preservation of these livelihoods but even to an improvement of livelihoods by creating employment, encouraging benefit sharing and improving access to education and care. In that way sustainable forest management can contribute to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's), especially MDG 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), MDG 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases), MDG 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability) and 8 (Develop a global partnership for development).



« By becoming a partner of the Congo Basin Program, Corà Wood Gabon shows its firm commitment to continuously improving its forest harvesting practices with a clear objective to reach the performance level as required by the principles and criteria of the FSC standard for sustainable forestry before the end of 2015. »

More information

For more information do not hesitate to contact the Congo Basin Program Secretary:

Mr Tieme Wanders – Program Director
t.wanders@congobasinprogram.com

Ms Petra Westerlaan – Program officer
p.westerlaan@congobasinprogram.com

Mr Rik Sools – Program officer
r.sools@congobasinprogram.com

Mr Bertin Tchikangwa – Regional coordinator
b.tchikangwa@congobasinprogram.com

www.congobasinprogram.com

