



SUMMIT OF THE THREE BASINS
OF BIODIVERSITY ECOSYSTEMS
AND TROPICAL FORESTS

CONCEPT NOTE*

**AMAZONIA/CONGO/BORNEO-MEKONG AND SOUTHEAST
ASIA, SUMMIT OF THE THREE BASINS OF BIODIVERSITY
ECOSYSTEMS AND TROPICAL FORESTS**

BRAZZAVILLE, 26, 27 and 28 October 2023

**This version is a draft that can be amended and completed by members of other basins as well as all other stakeholders.*

I- Introduction

The COP 27 for the climate held in Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt concluded with the historic recognition of forest and tropical nations in their role of global regulators of the planet's carbon balance. The decision in the final hours before the consensus was reached on the creation of a fund to compensate for the loss and damage that had been expected since the Paris Agreement in 2015 testifies witness to this growing awareness. The IPCC, in its last 2022 report, had stressed that without stopping deforestation in 2030, the goal of the Paris Agreement to keep global warming at 1.5°C would not be achieved regardless of the efforts and means undertaken to transform the economic and industrial model of developed countries. The Congo Basin alone is the second largest tropical rainforest in the world, sequestering the equivalent of 8 to 10 years of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

At the just-concluded COP 15 for biodiversity in Montreal, world leaders for the first time recognized that the world's three major forest and biodiversity ecosystems are the last line of defence for the preservation of plant, animal and indigenous communities. In total, these three major ecosystems sustain the lives of one billion human beings, as well as centuries-old plant and animal species. For the first time, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has been adopted and sets the central objective of ensuring the protection of " *at least 30% of land, inland waters and oceans*". A dedicated biodiversity trust fund will be established within the Global Environment Facility and will be endowed with at least \$20 billion per year by 2025 and at least \$30 billion by 2030.

The Sharm El Sheikh and Kunming-Montreal Agreements confer responsibility and legitimacy on the world's three forest and biodiversity ecosystems to define and implement the decade's operational roadmap for preserving forests and biodiversity to safeguard the planet.

The Congo Basin, represented by the 17 States that compose it, appears to be the ecosystem with the most successful political and technical structuring, particularly with regard to the Climate Commission for the Congo Basin, created by the First African Summit of Action in favor of continental co-emergence, convened at the initiative of His Majesty King **Mohammed VI** Morocco at COP 22 in Marrakech. This Commission has been chaired since its inception by His Excellency Mr. **Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO**, President of the Republic of Congo, Head of State, and President of the Climate Commission for the Congo Basin, and supported by Her Royal Highness, Princess **Lalla HASNAA**, as Goodwill Ambassador and the African Union, chaired by Her Excellency, Mr **Macky SALL**, President of the Republic of Senegal.

At the close of the 27th Conference of the Parties, His Excellency Mr. **Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO** called for the relaunch of the cooperation process for the three forest basins and global biodiversity, with the aim of ensuring the global governance of policies for the preservation, cooperation and financing of the planet's ecological and climate lung and proposed the summit of the three basins - Amazonia, Congo, Borneo-Mekong and South-East Asia - of biodiversity ecosystems and tropical forests.

II- Historical

On 29, 30 May and 1 June 2011, was held in Brazzaville, at the initiative of His Excellency Mr. **Denis SASSOU N'GUESSO**, President of the Republic of Congo, the first summit of the three tropical forest basins which brought together more than 500 participants including:

- The Heads of State of Equatorial Guinea, British Guiana, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, and Sao Tome and Principe;

- The Vice-Presidents of Angola and Tanzania;
- The Prime Ministers of Cameroon, Rwanda and Chad;
- The Heads of Delegation of Argentina, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, China, South Africa, Spain, France, Gambia, Indonesia, Japan, Mali, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Venezuela;
- Other organizations and Institutions Associated with: UN OCTA, AFD, ASEAN, AFDB, ECCAS, CEFDHAC, CEMAC, CICOS, CIFOR, CIRAD, FAO, GEF, GIZ, NEPAD, ITTO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, IUCN, African Union, WCS, WWF, WRI, GLOBE;
- Convention secretariats: CBD, RAMSAR.

On 3 May 2011, the Declaration of the 1st Summit of the Three Tropical Forest Basins was published, in which participants recognized the need to establish a platform to promote cooperation between the countries of the three tropical forest basins. They mandated the President of the Republic of the Congo to facilitate and coordinate the finalization of a cooperation agreement, in consultation with the countries of the three tropical forest basins and with the relevant regional organizations (ASEAN, COMIFAC, OCTA).

Twelve years after the 1st Summit of the three tropical forest basins, the Congo Basin has been enriched politically, diplomatically and institutionally with the creation in 2016 of the Congo Basin Climate Commission (CCBC) and its financial tool, the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin (F2BC). The CCBC was created in 2016 simultaneously with two other commissions, the Climate Commission of the Sahel Region and the Climate Commission of the Island States. Their endorsement by the African Union took place in January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The objective assigned to these three commissions is to ensure the coordination of all activities aimed at reconciling the fight against climate change and economic development in the Member States of the African Union, including those of the CCBC.

The mission of the CCBC is to ensure the coordination of all initiatives and activities aimed at reconciling economic development and the fight against climate change in the Member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe) and those of the East African Community (Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia). This technical coordination is ensured by Mrs. **Arlette SOUDAN-NONAUT**, Congolese Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Congo Basin.

With regard to the thirteen points of the 2011 declaration, much progress has been made. Nevertheless, new challenges remain, particularly on issues of global governance of tropical forest basins, and in particular for the financing of the role of global regulator of the carbon balance of the three basins through sovereign carbon credits and the installation of a structured carbon market. This responsibility, highlighted in the latest IPCC report for achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement on limiting global warming to 1.5°C, officially recognized for the first time at COP27 in Egypt and legally supported by Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, now requires the urgent establishment of global governance of the three tropical forest basins, based on the inalienable principle of sovereignty of forest countries in the management of their carbon sink, their plant and animal biodiversity, and the protection of populations whose livelihoods depend on forests, estimated at 1.5 billion people.

III- Main proposed issue

The main challenge of the 2nd edition of the Three Basin Summit of Biodiversity Ecosystems and Tropical Forests will be to establish and gradually install a strictly South-South governance, and to

coordinate a global structured cooperation in many areas such as political, economic, scientific and technical cooperation, within the three global ecosystems on which the sustainability of humanity is based.

The three basins should benefit from the existing and future financial commitment announced at COP 27 for climate, under the Egyptian presidency and COP 15 for biodiversity under the Chinese presidency, commensurate with their role in the balance of the planet.

IV- Objectives of the Summit

The general objective

This second summit, proposed at the initiative of the Congo Basin Climate Commission and under the impetus of its President, is intended to launch the process of coordination and cooperation between the three basins with a view to build a global coalition to support the United Nations 2021-2030 Decade for the Restoration of Ecosystems, to promote the integration of climate and biodiversity issues, which are dealt with separately under international agreements, and to act as a force for influence in multilateral climate and biodiversity bodies.

Specific objectives

- Define and adopt the main lines of the progressive establishment of governance;
- Define a work program, its roadmap and a monitoring and evaluation committee;
- Develop a portfolio of investment projects to benefit from existing and future financing mechanisms;
- Sign funding agreements with multilateral and bilateral donors, global philanthropy and the private sector to deliver multi-country and transcontinental programs to de-risk funding and ensure overall coherence;
- Identify sub-regional and intercontinental political, economic and technical cooperation and strengthen capacities in the three sub-regions through the inclusive involvement of all stakeholders (NGOs, indigenous peoples, local authorities, private sector, TFPs...);
- Define topics for scientific and technological cooperation to develop innovative solutions in the management of the different ecosystems of the three basins;
- Strengthen the participation and engagement of youth, including indigenous youth and refugees as essential partners in preserving ecosystems and combating climate change and loss of biodiversity
- Establish the terms for the creation of a sovereign carbon market on a global scale to allow fair remuneration for the ecosystem services produced by the three basins; que
- Propose a framework for integrating climate and biodiversity issues;
- Adopt the declaration of the 2nd Summit.

V- The format of the 2nd Summit

The Summit will take place over three days:

- October 26, 2023: Technical segment;
- 27 October 2023: Ministerial segment;
- October 28, 2023: High-level segment.

VI- Countries and target audiences

The Three Basin Summit of Biodiversity Ecosystems and Tropical Forests will bring together five population groups:

- The representatives of the States of the three basins:
 - o Heads of State and Government;
 - o The ministers of the departments concerned;
 - **16** Congo Basin countries (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) and the Kingdom of Morocco, founding partner;
 - **9** countries of the Amazon Basin with Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and Guyana (+ 15 Associated Countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM): Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname);
 - The **5** countries of the Mekong Borneo: Mekong Basin with China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam and the **6** other associated countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar and Brunei;
 - The tropical forest countries of Central America: Belize, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador;
 - Tropical forest countries of Africa: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Madagascar.
- Sub-regional political and economic organizations of the three ecosystems:
 - o Congo Basin:
 - African Union;
 - Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS);
 - Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC);
 - East African Community (EAC); [FAC](#);
 - International Commission of the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin (CICOS).
 - o Basins of other forests in Africa:
 - Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
 - Southern African Development Community (SADC).
 - o Amazon Basin:
 - Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).
 - o Borneo Mekong Basin Southeast Asia:
 - Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN);
 - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation .
- Representatives of other States and partner organisations
 - o The Kingdom of Morocco, founding partner, in its capacity as the original Associated State of the CCBC;
 - o The States of North America (the United States of America, etc.);
 - o the European Union;
 - o CAFI (Central African Forest Initiative) ;
 - o The Climate Commission of the Sahel region;
 - o The Climate Commission of the Island States.
- The scientific community represented by members of the IPCC, IPBES and national climate and biodiversity experts and universities and institutes of committed States (to be constituted);

- Funders:
 - o The Fortunes "500" and philanthropic organizations;
 - o Multilateral donors;
 - o Financial markets.

- Local international climate and biodiversity organizations including representatives of youth, refugee and indigenous peoples' associations and women's groups engaged in climate and biodiversity conservation actions.

VII- The content and themes of the Three Basin Summit of Biodiversity Ecosystems and Tropical Forests

The content of the Three Basins Summit could be broken down:

In five blocks of issues:

- Necessity and ambitions;
- The preservation of plant species;
- The preservation of animal species;
- The preservation of human communities, including the indigenous populations of these three basins;
- The development of inclusive, environmentally sound economic value chains around ecosystem services and wood and non-timber forest products.

In three blocks of solutions and means:

- Scientific and technical cooperation led by the IPCC, IPBES and the group of national experts of the States of the three basins, set up on this occasion;
- Financing and solidarity mechanisms;
- The cooperation tools of the Decade for the Preservation of the Planet.