

Conference Report

International Conference on the future of Central African Forests and its People

.....
& book launch

“Central African Forests Forever”

Wednesday 31 May 2017

13.30 – 17.00 hrs

The Hague, the Netherlands

.....
VNO-NCW and MKB

Nederland Building

Bezuidenhoutseweg 12



Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Global Compact Network
Netherlands



Table of contents

2

Highlights

4

Programme

5

Setting the scene

7

Voices from the forest

11

Panel debate - What can we do?

14

Book launch – Central African Forests Forever,
Meindert Brouwer

14

Next steps, ways forward - René Boot

15

Annex 1. Interviews with Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet
and Alphonse Maindo

19

Annex 2: Participant list - Central African Forest
and People Conference.

Highlights

More than 140 people gathered in Den Haag on 31 May to hear from experts from the Central African region and those who have worked there. They told the assembled participants, from the Dutch government, private sector, academia, NGOs and civil society from the region and Europe, on the importance of the Congo Basin forests but also the increasing threats they face. But there was also much hope, with the sharing of concrete actions that have worked, and what more can we do, including suggestions for a Dutch development agenda that could support private sector engagement in the sustainable use of Central African forest landscapes.



“Organize, don’t agonize”, was a key message from Alphonse Maindo, Director of Tropenbos-DR Congo from Kisangani in the eastern part of the country. “Forests are crucial for local people and governance and guaranteeing their rights are immediate issues” he explained, “Invest in the people, 150 million lovely people – that is a resource as great as our forests.”

Cécile Ndjebet from Cameroon and President of the African Women’s Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF) with members in 17 countries, added that *“If you don’t invest in rural women, then the future of Congo Basin forests can be in no way assured. We see what women can do, but if rights are not secure, poverty will never be overcome and sustainable forestry will never be achieved...”*

Key points

- *Congo Basin forests are an essential resource for those who live in and around them, and for regulating climate far beyond, so we must ‘think beyond the forest’ at the landscape level, and consider energy, agriculture, mining, etc.*
- *To safeguard the forests, we must focus more on smallholder land use development and invest in women, improve land rights, tenure and participatory land use planning, responsible production and trade.*
- *Help to engage the private sector with local communities to develop inclusive business*

Congo Basin forests are of great significance to Africa and to the world, and together, they make up the second largest contiguous tropical forest on Earth. Tens of millions of people depend on them directly for their livelihood, hundreds of millions more depend indirectly and they are essential for maintaining climate and rainfall regimes over all of Africa. This was confirmed during the opening session, from Ardi Stoios-Braken

of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, André van Heemstra of the Global Compact Network-Netherlands, and René Boot of Tropenbos who also chaired the conference. Verina Ingram of Wageningen University and Henk Hoefsloot of Tropenbos introduced the region, trends in deforestation, and the precarious present situation. And we also heard about a very different approach to the problem and a solution from Renzo Martens of the Institute for Human Activity, and their success in linking art to a more sustainable and equitable use of land in DR Congo.



There are many issues and challenges, but we also shared examples of ways forward, and how Central African governments - and its people, in partnership - overcome the social and environmental challenges the region faces. In the panel debate, were Leslie Ouarzazi of the Central African Forest Initiative, Jaap van der Waarde of WWF-Netherlands, Hans Beeckman of the Royal Museum for Central Africa and Tullia Baldassarri of the timber company Interholco, in addition the other speakers.

After the key presentations and a panel discussion, Rene Boot, Director of Tropenbos International, who also chaired the conference, summarized the views. “All panellists emphasized the importance of Congo Basin forests, both locally and globally. And the importance of women, land tenure and participatory land use planning was driven home - involving local people in meaningful dialogue and not with top-down approaches. We must strengthen institutions and governance, and while this will not be an easy task, examples such as the Voluntary Partnership Agreements for timber show under FLEGT us that this *does* lead to better governance. And we must look to work with the private sector to develop inclusive business and financing models.” These should include commodities such as cocoa, timber, rubber and oil palm, but also specialised high-value but low-volume non-timber forest products. And what roles the Dutch government could play were suggested, such as to support compliance with relevant international agreements, curbing trade in conflict minerals, and to influence policy and trade reforms that support any of these recommendations.”

Central African Forests Forever, Meindert Brouwer’s new book, was also launched at the end of the conference. With its mix of eyewitness reports, interviews and expert opinion, it offers an inspiring view of the opportunities, and solutions, to conserving Congo Basin forests and their megabiodiversity. It is essential reading to everyone interested in knowing more about this exceptional and beautiful part of the world. There is also a French edition; and for a preview and to order a copy, see www.centralafricanforests.org.



The conference was co-organized by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Global Compact Network – Netherlands, and Tropenbos International.

For information, contact Herman Savenije (herman.savenije@tropenbos.org).

12.30	Welcome	
13.30	Setting the scene	
	Introduction	Seminar Chair: René Boot, Director, Tropenbos International
	Why care for the Central African forest and its people. A business and policy perspective	Ardi Stoios-Braken – Deputy Director IGG, Ministry of Foreign Affairs André van Heemstra - NL Global Compact Network
13.45	Voices from the forest	
	Congo Basin forests - importance, trends and developments	Verina Ingram - Wageningen University Henk Hoefsloot - Tropenbos International
	Women and forest – and the impacts, roles, prospects and needs of rural people	Cécile Ndjebet – President, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)
	From illegal loggers to tax-paying forest managers. The Tropenbos experience in DRC.	Alphonse Maindo – Director, Tropenbos DR Congo
14.45	Break	
15.15	The Repatriation of the White Cube; at the Lusanga International Research Centre for Art and Economic Inequality (LIRCAEI) in DRC	Renzo Martens - Institute for Human Activity, Amsterdam with Cercle d'Art des Travailleurs de Plantation Congolaise
15.30	Panel debate: What can we do? Moderator: René Boot	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cécile Ndjebet - REFACOF • Alphonse Maindo – Tropenbos DR Congo • Jaap van der Waarde –WWF Netherlands • Hans Beeckman - Koninklijk Museum voor Midden Afrika, Tervuren • Leslie Ouarzazi - Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) Secretariat, UNDP • Renzo Martens - Institute for Human Activity • André van Heemstra - NL Global Compact Network 	
16.30	Next steps, ways forward - René Boot	
16.45	International Book Launch - <i>Central African Forests Forever</i>	
17.00	Close	

The conference was co-hosted by:

Global Compact Network Netherlands (GCNL) is an initiative of Dutch business leaders to further the contribution of private business within its sphere of influence towards the Sustainable Development Goals, stimulating collaborative actions and dialogue between companies and other actors in the Netherlands and with counterparts in developing countries. GCNL is a partner in the Central African Forests Forever Initiative

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Through Development Cooperation and Trade the Dutch government promotes sustainable economic growth in developing countries working towards global stability and security and fostering human rights. It does so by focusing on the fields in which the Netherlands itself excels, for example water management and food security

Tropenbos International (TBI) is a non-governmental, non-profit knowledge network working on improving tropical forest governance and management as a means to contribute to the sustainable development agenda. Created in 1986 it has presence through partner programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Colombia and Suriname, and projects in Liberia, Nigeria, Uganda, Philippines, Bolivia and Honduras.

René Boot, Director Tropenbos International

Congo Basin forests are of great significance to Africa and to the world. They make up the second largest contiguous tropical forest on Earth. Tens of millions of people depend on them directly for their livelihood, hundreds of million more depend indirectly. And these Central African forests are one of the last large wilderness areas on earth, supporting what is now called *megabiodiversity*. This conference brings together participants from government, business, civil society, knowledge and media organizations, and a space for exchange and networking.



The aims of the conference are to hear the experts tell us about the current situation, trends, issues...; to answer the key questions, and debate options and possible solutions; to highlight what concrete actions have worked and what more can we do; to propose a Dutch development agenda supporting private sector engagement in sustainable use of forest landscapes in the Congo Basin; and to launch the new book, *Central African Forests Forever*.

This conference aims to offer answers to three key questions

What can be done to put forests at the heart of the region's development?

Deforestation has increased greatly in recent decades, and some 800,000 hectares of forest disappear every year. The causes? Mostly to be converted to unsustainable agriculture that does not even meet the growing needs of regions population, as well as legal and illegal logging for timber and charcoal for Africa's growing urban populations. Large scale production of oil palm and rubber is increasing too, and will if unchecked, have devastating effects on forests and forest peoples' livelihoods. Roads, mining and other developments all also take their toll on Congo Basins forests.

What do Central African countries want to do with their forests and will their visions and strategies deliver the desired results?

The region faces major challenges - poverty, inequality and food insecurity, poor economic growth and poor business climate. And weaknesses in governance, institutions and infrastructure make it difficult to successfully address these challenges. However, several countries in the Central Africa region seek to become emerging economies, and are at a turning point. They must decide how much of the required growth will be achieved at the expense of forests and other natural resources, or how to enhance the value of the region's standing forests.

And what can European countries like the Netherlands do to leverage the business case for sustainable forestry and smart land use, and ensure that economic development is sustainable and inclusive and provides for equitable long term benefits? These and other questions will be the focus of this conference. We will take stock of current trends in the region and their effects. We will highlight sustainable results of public, civil society and private business initiatives and address the question how Dutch policy, business and civil society initiatives can contribute to keep the Congo Basin forests standing and support sustainable development in Central Africa.

Ardi Stoios-Braken, Deputy Director IGG, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Netherlands

Thank you for inviting me to provide the 'policy note' for this important conference, with the presentation of the book *Central African Forests Forever* which has grown to be a beautiful tree with strong branches and rich fruits. In the on-line version, we have seen it grow with each new chapter. The Congo Basin is a region of extremes. This is well illustrated by another great book on the Congo by the Belgian writer David van Reybrouck. It shows the turbulent history of this country through the eyes of people who personally witnessed these extremes: colonial domination, political violence, dictatorship, wars, corruption. However, it also describes the country's beauty, wealth of natural resources, pristine forests and 'mega-biodiversity'.



At this conference, I hope we can do the same: experts that work in the region with smallholders and women and organizations like CAFI (Central African Forest Initiative) will tell us about the problems and challenges, but more importantly they can tell us about opportunities to keep the second largest rainforest in the world standing. We need to learn from their stories on success and failure. How do we give value to the forest? To put economic value on keeping the forest intact is a basic condition for success!

Why is this important to the Netherlands? First and foremost, it is part of our climate policy. In many developing countries, deforestation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Worldwide, this sector together with other forms of land use is responsible for some 20% of total emissions. One of the underlying causes is commercial agriculture fueled by a growing international demand for commodities like palm oil, soya and beef. This brings us to our responsibility as consumers. Over the period 1990-2008, the EU was responsible for more than 35% of all deforestation through the import of crop and livestock products. Another cause is local deforestation, often poverty-driven, driven by slash-and-burn agriculture, artisanal wood production, wood energy and charcoal production, and mining activities. In DR Congo, this is even the biggest driver of deforestation. The reduction of poverty is of course at the core of development cooperation, but action to stop deforestation is particularly rewarding, as forest-dependent communities are crucial agents of change.

What should the Netherlands do? With our development cooperation funding, we aim to preserve carbon-rich forests by fighting illegal logging and promoting deforestation-free supply chains. Improving governance is a key aspect and therefore a priority in this connection. To reach our aims we apply a double focus: (1) on key players to keep the forest standing: smallholders, especially women; and (2) on doing what we are good at: spatial planning (in our small country) and stakeholder involvement (the 'Dutch diamond').

How can we achieve this? Work both top-down and bottom-up. Top-down, with multilateral programmes working for example on improving policy and legislation and its enforcement. Bottom-up, by applying an integrated landscape approach in regions to solve concrete problems and find sustainable business models. Reducing deforestation is not simple and often we see tension arise. Therefore, we keep looking for innovative ways to obtain tangible results. I am convinced this Conference will help us find those ways.

André van Heemstra, Director, Global Compact Network - Netherlands

There is an African saying, that if you want to go quick, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together. As we see in the Congo Basin, extraordinary challenges and leading to a strong desire for collaboration across sectors. And collaboration is essential to achieve the 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. We also talk about the elimination of poverty, hunger and inequality...

Global Compact is an example of how collaboration can succeed, and have 80 local networks, and look for external partners with which to work with. Then we met CAFI [the Central African Forest Initiative]. Everyone knows the Amazon, but not everyone knows the Congo forest. Now we shall all learn more about them, and what we do – together.



Voices from the forest

Congo Basin forests: Importance, trends and developments

**Verina Ingram, Wageningen University, and
Henk Hoefsloot, Tropenbos International**

Basic facts of the region were introduced at the outset (see for example CAFI Facts and Figures, above). Population density is highly variable with areas very low and very high areas, and regarding the economic importance of the forests, woodfuel is the main use, then timber, commercial and artisanal. There are multiple social uses and values, ecosystems services, environmental, and provision of water, clean air, etc.



Trends include increased rates of deforestation and land and forest degradation, but these are very different between different countries in the region and between different regions of the same country. Causes are primarily charcoal and clearing by smallholders, as well as from large commercial logging, with underlying causes being poverty, population growth (with an increase of 1.7 million people in the Central African region, annually), poor governance, the funding of conflicts... Impacts include biodiversity loss (e.g. 60% loss in large mammals). There are positive sides, however, with an increasing rule of law, with >152 protected areas will real growth in the past 20 years or so. International organizations are established, but still, enforcement is poor. There is also much conflicting land use, especially with the expansion of mining

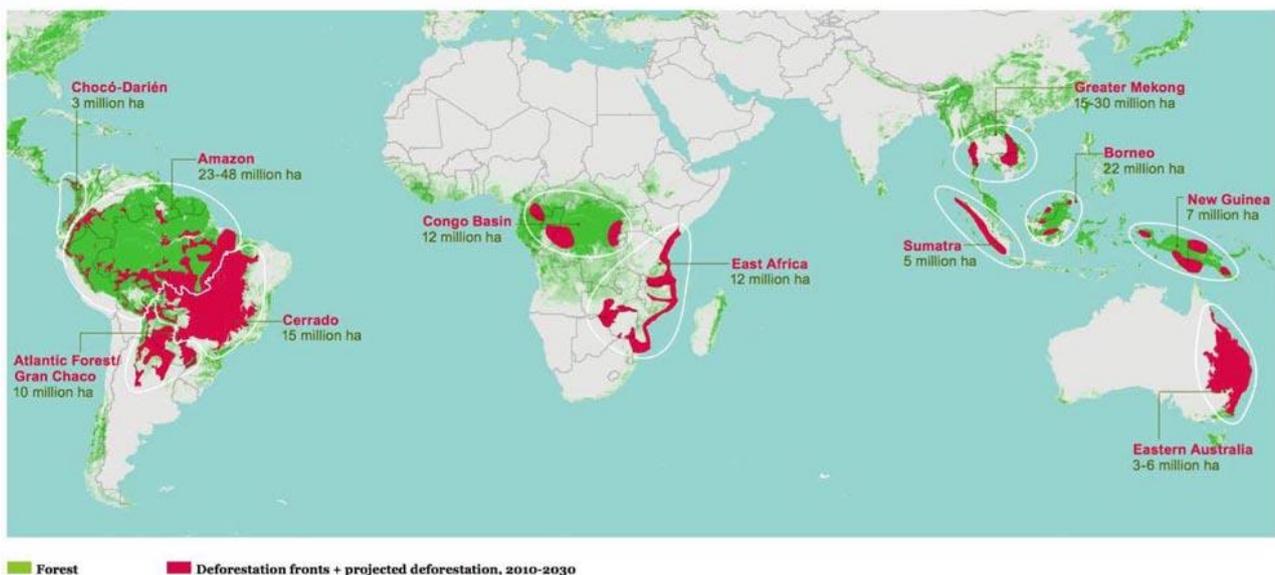
There is a trend in financial investments in the region, with a dip following the financial crash, but we now see an increase in investments from outside, and also from the (urban) 'elites'. There are climate change trends, with increasingly hot days and nights. There are also positive trends in forest resource use, and regarding timber, there are now 25.6 million ha forest managed state-approved plans (2010), 17% of all forest concessions are under management certification schemes (2015), with 5.7 million hectares FSC certified in Gabon, Cameroon and Congo.



But timber extraction rates are very low, of around 0.5 m³/ha, but with more than 100 timber species though only 13 or more are commonly harvested. Congo Basin countries are also only small players internationally, supplying only some 3% of the trade in global tropical Roundwood, but Congo Basin countries are active in EU legality verification agreements such as with the Brazzaville Declaration.

New developments are making large differences and we can see the impacts where governments and their actions are less apparent. New roads across the regions are increasing access, and deforestation. Mining is expanding. But in contrast many governments are now undertaking national landscape plans, and this is a big step forward and many countries. Also, there is hope with the private sector, and landscape-level approaches, and developing certain value chains, especially timber, palm oil, cocoa, tea, even water? By certifying commodities, and through direct investments such as with PES and REDD, and new interests in investments in plantations, this may help to secure a more sustainable future, by bringing companies in, or back in, but in a responsible manner.

MAP OF DEFORESTATION FRONTS



Women and forest: impacts, roles, prospects and needs of rural people

Cécile Ndjebet, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)

REFACOF was created in May 2009 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, with members in 17 West and Central African countries and Madagascar. REFACOF is an advocacy platform focused on African women's tenure rights in land and forest reforms, and our moto is: Securing Women's Forest and Land Property Rights! Our mission is to promote women's rights in Africa and advocate to shape policies and practices for gender equity in relation to land and forest tenure, with four strategic pillars. These are (1) capacity building, (2) tenure reforms, (3) advocacy, and (4) experience sharing between out 17 member countries.



There are 60 million people living in our forests. But the Congo Basin as a whole – when we talk about water we are ten countries, but when we talk about the forest we are only eight – but still, the combined population of those eight (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Gabon, Central Africa Republic, Congo, DR Congo and Rwanda) is 93 million people, with 59% rural. And the importance and impacts of forests on rural women's livelihoods cannot be underestimated. Women are the primary users of the forest. The forest for

them, is their life. Rural populations in general and rural women in particular depend on forests and forest resources for their livelihoods, cultural practices and social values. Rural women have good knowledge of forest, forest resources and use, and are primary users of forest and other natural resources such as food, firewood, water, soil, fodder, medicine, agricultural activities. Women represent on average 60% of agricultural producers and around 70% of agricultural labour. And women control 80% of the collection, production and processing of non-timber forest production (NTFPs) and related activities. They are thus severely affected by the negative impacts of deforestation and forest degradation.

A number of examples were presented of women's groups and association in different countries in the region, and how they use the forest and benefit from it. It also shows the scale, and offered ideas on how easily – with adequate investment – production could be scaled up... For examples, one small group produced 15 tonnes of honey per year and made from this US\$37,000. Another groups (MALEBI) of only 14 women make 160 tonnes of charcoal per year leading to an income of US\$30,000.

Forest are REAL – capital for the rural people, as a source of wealth, food, for LIFE – and for women in particular. Women's role moving from subsistence to business development with added value commercial products. And this will improve forest governance. So, how to support women's role in forest management? Firstly, emphasize livelihood development for local people in general and women in particular. But women work mostly in the informal sector, which needs efforts to strengthen their technical and financial capacities, and to put in places laws and regulations that protect rights and access to resources. There are six clear entry points. These are (i) business development, (ii) empowerment, (iii) supporting equitable decision-making, (iv) rights 'mapping', (v) increasing credit and market access, and (vi) developing private sector partnerships.

Business, invest in women. We are serious. We are careful. You can trust us. If you don't invest in rural women, then the future of the Congo Basin forests will be chaotic. Women are successful and their success works and can be scaled up. But, if women's rights are not secure, poverty will never be overcome and sustainable forestry will never be achieved...

From illegal loggers to tax- paying forest managers - The Tropenbos experience in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Alphonse Maindo, Tropenbos International – DR Congo

Let me first put things into perspective. I live in Kisangani, in DRC's Province Orientale. Neighbouring Tshopo province is six times the area of the Netherlands, and is home to five million people, mostly Bantu, some pygmies. And 87% of the province is *still* forested. There is some farming, but bush meat is the main source of animal protein.

Drivers of deforestations are conflict, and that there is no coordination between sectors (e.g. mining, forestry, etc). However, one forestry concession (SAFBOIS) is turning to conservation for the carbon market. Also, to be considered, is that the volume of artisanal timber in DR Congo is estimated at 3.5 million m³ per year, and in Tshopo, provides 3000 direct jobs, and indirectly, many more. The results? The export artisanal timber has been authorized, with legal status improved from one to five years for a fee of US\$600. There are reduced abuses, and taxes are now paid increased, from 0.5% of all artisanal millers to 20%, from a base of increasing legalization: from 0.5 to 40% artisanal loggers identified complying with regulations.

Forests are crucial for local people, and governance of the supply is the main issues, but people will adapt. Organize, don't agonize – help to stop trafficking. Invest in the people – the 150 million lovely people. And help to keep youth and dynamic people in the region



Open floor Q&A

Q. How can we ensure indigenous land rights?

A. (Cecile) – we must work with traditional groups, and also at a higher level, nationally and regulatorily, and we must push for provisions for women and IP in all related laws so that they are taken into account
Alphonse – one way is to mapping customary rights and put onto a cadastre – and must recognize traditional and indigenous property rights and that they are given title and that this is organized

Q. Are we really talking about people, or just trees?

A. (Cecile) – what do you CHOSE if you want to contribute to the sustainable future of CB forests and people – then you need to talk to women, to communities and move from rudimentary ways to business development – and get into community-based forestry managed. Come in, and you will realise that you can work with this diversity. We call for partnership to create wealth in the CB while protect the resources.

Q. Where are political parties in all of this?

A. (Alphonse) – Parties in the region are there for power and economic reasons and not for defending any particular ideology. They also tend to support certain ethnic groups... And they don't play a fair role in managing the forest. Forests are not an issue for political leaders. They think that 'forests ARE forever', that you can cut and cut but there will always be more. So we make efforts to sensitize political leaders and parties, to tell them – "that if there is no more forest left, there will be no more political parties!" And we must all understand that we are dealing about humanity first!

Q. What about the enabling environment for investment? What can we do to speed up the process towards good governance, as we have little time before 2030...?

A. (Alphonse) – We have an issue of governance and conflict, overexploitation of natural resources, human rights violations – so we ask the Dutch, use your influence in the EU to stop trafficking of arms that fuel the undermining of governance – and lobby governments in the region as the EU is the main donor (e.g. 55% of aid supports our country), and support and promote civil society to help make governments accountable.

A. (Cecile) – You have VPA-FLEGT, but can the government of the Netherlands help to strengthen this, and support and enforce implementation – and help us build capacities... So please push for implementation and help us with better governance to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Q. We hear much about women, but what about men?

A. (Cecile) – We must work with men as partners. We had to work with parliamentarians and traditional chiefs as they have to understand that their laws were unfair not only to women but to men too. Don't be worried! We have to work with men, and we do.

Q. How do you see the future with illegal exploitation of natural resources in DRC?

A. (Alphonse) – If there is no change in our behaviour and in our minds, the future of the Congo Basin is dark, as we are heading towards the wall... The major issue is the state – we need reform, or we need a revolution. The provinces are being governed with no sanction against those who take from our forest. We need to think about state change. Military vehicles are used to carry illegal timber – so what can you do? We must empower our civil society to voice the issues, and to monitor and advocate... We must organize, and not agonize...

The Repatriation of the White Cube; at the Lusanga International Research Centre for Art and Economic Inequality (LIRCAEI) in DRC Renzo Martens, Institute for Human Activity

I mostly speak in museums and art spaces – in white cubes. We have brought back a quintessential 'white cube' in what was formerly called Leverville, now Lusanga. White cubes take away the context, politically, etc., so are good for art.



See the Tate Modern for example – it is full of dissent, critiques, freedom... In contrast, look at plantations – where there is no dissent, and anything that goes against profit maximization must be wiped out. See the Lady Lever Gallery in Liverpool, paid for from slave labour in the DRC. Plantations have historically funded white cubes. Unilever labourers earned \$20-30/month in 2000-2012 when Unilever funded such white cubes in Europe. These people “work and shut up”, so we tried adding a ‘critical curriculum’ ... We not only built this white cube in the former plantation, we helped to develop art forms. Artists created statues, we replicated them using 3D printers, but in chocolate. And with these chocolate statues – with added ideas and inspirations, we made \$70,000 profit.

Next – how to attract money/interest - Our International Institute for Art and Inequality is trying. But not simply to invite capital and investment – it needs more than that – as there is a need to use that money to change the dynamic. We have an order book for €2.3 million for artwork from plantation workers – and now, they use this money to buy back land from the old plantations that they can plant food and cash crops. Per hectare, if only workers can add ideas and diversity, we see small smallholders are much richer than plantations. Much better business is possible if people are allowed to think, and love.

Panel Debate: What can we do?



Leslie Ouarzazi, Central African Forest Initiative – “We must put land-use planning at the heart of the matter”

This region is key to meeting the aims of the Paris Agreement. At CAFI, we share the concerns regarding governance, land tenure insecurity. And for solutions, we need to develop economic activities – but this will cause increasing conflicts with competing land uses. So, the International community must support these countries to follow sustainable development pathways. CAFI believes that forest preservation by holistic approaches and to coordinate and not by scattered projects to taking multiple drivers of deforestation, with land-use planning at the heart of making decisions at all levels. This needs to be elaborated, and we expect countries to push through land reform. Forest preservation in this region is not a mere environmental issue, but is a key development one which touches upon rural development, food security, the fight against poverty, etc. Of key importance is land use planning and the need to define a shared vision over land uses at different decision-making levels, and it is critical to engage with a broad range of partners. Governments must be in the driving seat as decisions over land use are under their prerogative, together with communities who live in these forests, and the private sector and technical and financial partners. A challenge is to coordinate and align efforts towards a shared vision, even more in fragile states given weak governments. And this is what CAFI strives for. An example is a letter of Intent signed with DRC in which the

government committed itself to more than 20 milestones, including reforms, policies and measures, and the establishment of multi-stakeholder governance structures to follow up on these commitments

Hans Beeckman, Koninklijk Museum voor Midden Afrika, Tervuren

– “We need sound use of forest resources, and it all starts with education and research”

Management of the Congo Basin forests, aiming at a sustained production of goods and ecosystem services, needs to be scientifically underpinned. Research relates to defining limits between sound use and depletion of resources. Organic carbon or wood stocks should for this reason be a principal theme for scientific endeavour. Nevertheless, Central African research capacity is particularly weak or simply non-existing. This implies that fundamental questions on age of trees, forest resilience, productivity of natural and planted forests and technological potential of forest products remain largely unanswered. Investments regarding education of scientists and technicians are direly needed, as well as strengthening local scientific facilities. Input from Central African researchers is particularly needed, especially to define the research priorities and avoid investments in trivial domains and ill-adapted facilities. This museum in a big palace near Brussels was paid for from rubber a hundred or more years ago.... We hear stories of villagers being forced to overexploit in old books that you should read. In some forest, you won't find any of the fine timber trees there any more, such as the yellow, gold and dark timber trees. They forest looks intact, but it is poor... And there is regeneration-deficit. Congo Basin forests need to be used, and need to be conserved, as there is a risk of further depletion. The fine line between use and misuse must be answered by good science. And the choice of the topic is importance – but scientists are not good at making choices...

Jaap van der Waarde, WWF the Netherlands

– “The Dutch need to lead by example”

WWF is working actively in five Congo Basin countries. With protected areas, we have seen much success in the past 20 years, but also in the use of participatory approaches that make these parks work for people and just for biodiversity. Park gazettement has become a truly participatory process which is essential to obtain broad stakeholder acceptance. But many parks are in practice paper parks and climate change may even bring us in a situation with parks in the wrong places. We must support governments and organizations to better management – to invest in these parks – so I ask the Dutch government to offer more funding to support them. And trade – we are big investors, so we can help conserve this forest. Ecologically based land use planning is key. There are more than five million hectares of FSC certified forest in the Congo Basin – and I can tell you – the difference is BIG. We need to buy into that more. And you as an individual too, and ensure that our government buys only that. Also with oil palm, as the region imports half of what they use. The Unilever days are over – now we have RSPO, and we can hold these companies to account and ensure. We in Europe should only buy and invest in responsible production and adhere to the strictest standards, be it timber, palm oil, hydropower, finance etc., and banks and investors must show. Europe is still a major investor in Africa and we can reward responsible economic investments and decline illegal and harmful activities and products. The Dutch need to lead by example.

Tullia Baldassarri, Interholco AG

– “A landscape approach must embrace and integrate human society”

Tropical Forests in the Congo Basin have long been and, still are, in the focus of the international public sector as well as civil society. In narratives about tropical forests, the North often loses sight of the people, leaving aside their livelihoods and social infrastructure, but also their hunger and poverty. From our experience in DRC, we have learned that communities are affected and that solutions must be developed at local levels. With the help of recognized experts, public authorities and local communities, we have succeeded in making our community work more robust. Responsible business fosters growth and change, and provides social infrastructure (e.g. schools, medical services, etc.) and livelihoods for millions of people. Solutions do not come from international debate or campaigns, but from hard work on the ground, involving local people equitably, along with public authorities, social and environmental NGOs. We need to work together constructively for the benefit of the local communities. Solutions are often engineered in silos and that needs to change. Working in the South means embracing diversity in priorities and solutions. To find solutions, we need to look at the wider landscape. And, we need to connect all those who are involved. It is critically important to stop looking at forests at the management unit level, only. Competing land-uses are the single biggest threat to natural forests in the Congo Basin. As one of the largest natural forest operations in the Congo Basin, we have learned to work with landscapes approaches – not only bio-

geographical landscapes, but a highly dynamic array of closely linked social, ecological and economic landscapes. Various international actors are currently advocating the preservation of the last remaining intact forest landscapes worldwide. The solution is not simple and cannot be found within the forestry sector alone. In the real world, there are broad landscapes within which different interests, demands, objectives and targets compete. To succeed, we need to take a new 'landscape approach' – a landscape approach across the needs and expectations of human society, integrating all aspects of social, economic and environmental landscapes. In this we actively participate, shaping the future.

Cécile Ndjebet, REFACOF

- “Dutch ministers, I ask you to help implement the agreements signed by Congo Basin countries”

Governments are committed to a series of agreements, but implementation is still lacking! These include VPA-FLEGT, the Paris Climate Agreement, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR, New York, 16 December 1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, New York, 18 December 1979), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women (Maputo, July 2003), among others, ... To private business enterprises, I say please come and invest in the Congo Basin space, you can make a lot of money! There is a huge potential. The forest sector is very diverse, rich and almost virgin. Key points I wish to make are: that women, local communities and small scale private enterprises are good partners to you, and come and invest in NTFPs, in community forests, and develop value chain exotic products for regional and international markets. And for those of you interested in wood-based products, we have community forest with production capacities of more than two million cubic metres of wood with more than 50 exploitable forest species. Invest in Community Forest group certification to offer sustainable high value products to European and other western markets. For those interested in NTFP, the spectrum is extremely large! Come and partner with women and develop everlasting viable joint venture. Unilever wanted huge amount of *Allanblackia* - invest in tree domestication and you will secure the products for life!

Alphonse Maindo, Tropenbos DR Congo

- “Organize, don’t agonize”

Please, help to stop the trafficking of arms that fuels conflicts, to stop the trade in conflict minerals, to stop the trade in illegally harvested timber and other natural resources, and lobby for improved governance. Invest in human resources, the most important natural resource for biodiversity conservation. Human beings are an integral part of forests. Help to keep youth and educated people in the region and reduce emigration to Europe. Promote economic growth, reduce poverty by creating jobs. Help to secure forest people’s rights, as this is crucial for the conservation of our forests and biodiversity. The Congo Basin is a great opportunity and not at all a threat – come and invest in us, our 150 million lovely people. In the Congo Basin rests the future of our planet. You have to be there, and be involved.

Questions and answers

Q. What can you advise to new education institutions next to natural reserves re new curriculum?

A. (Alphonse) – Yes, we need to develop curricula at all levels, even from primary school, to teach children how and why to conserve the forest, that you are part of the forest so you must take care of the forest.

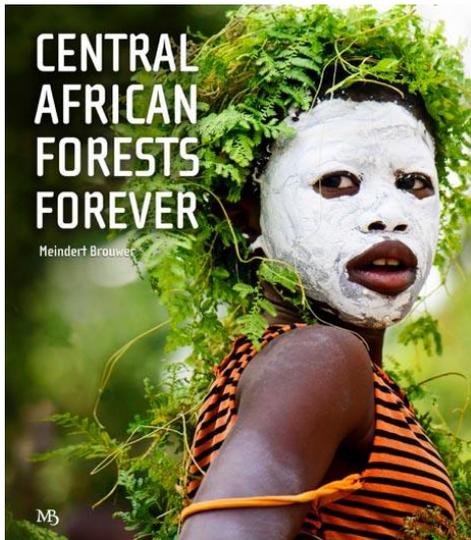
A. (Hans) – Forest are about people and not just trees. Also, more courses are needed in engineering – and this is neglected area in many related fields. We have lots of course on agroforestry and Fair Trade for example, but we need engineers too, and don’t have them...

Q. Going for the highest standards for products in Europe – do you think voluntary standards are enough?

A. (Jaap) – If they are pushed to go for mandatory standards, there is negotiation, and we end up with lower standards. So it is better to go for those leaders who volunteer and they will go for higher levels of standards and will (or can...) pull up the others. We need to make sure that our governments at least not only buy legal timber, but also buy only that of the highest sustainability standard.

Q. We have \$30M to invest. Who will help us? (Nicolas GROS)

A. Renzo – Come and invest in the museum!



The book includes such quotes, as:

- “Securing women’s rights is essential for forest preservation.” *Cécile Ndjebet*
- “Good governance means true democracy in which leaders are accountable for what they do or don’t do.” *Alphonse Maindo*
- “If alternative ways to efficiently produce more food per hectare are not found, forests will continue to shrink.” *Emmanuel Ze Meka*
- ‘Sustainable management of forests will provide populations with many ecosystem services for their well-being.’ *Emmanuel Ze Meka*
- “It is time to recognize the value of the great and rich biodiversity in the Congo Basin forest as a real economic asset.” *Chief Robinson,*

The book offers an inspiring overview of opportunities and solutions to preserve Congo Basin forests and their biodiversity. A mix of eyewitness reports, interviews and opinions of experts, most native to Central Africa, it is an eye-opener to everyone interested in knowing more about this exceptional and beautiful part of the world. There is also a French edition: ***Les forêts d’Afrique centrale pour toujours***. For a preview of the book and to order copies, see: www.centralafricanforests.org

Next steps, ways forward - René Boot

All speakers and panellists emphasized the importance of Congo Basin forests, locally, nationally, regionally and globally. The importance of land tenure and land use planning was repeatedly highlighted, including the need to involve local people and not with top-down approach. Strengthening institutions and governance was seen as crucial, but it was acknowledged that this would not be easy. But there are good examples that could be followed, such as the FLEGT VPAs that have led to improved forest governance. We must also look harder for inclusive economic models – and for the private sector involvement, investment and commitment. And for better governance, the Dutch can help very much by influencing countries in their European region and the Central African region to comply.

This conference has shown the keen interest of the Dutch government and private sector stakeholders in the Central Africa region. And key elements from today’s discussions can form the basis to constitute a plan of action, following recommendation, issues, principles and approaches we heard today. We heard recently at a high-level debate – “why forests, why now?”. Well, we want forests higher on policy agenda, and so want a ten-point plan... We should organize a high-level meeting in den Haag including key organizations and political parties. There we can present the findings from today’s conference, and contextualise it in the flow of current Dutch policy debate, and allow more reflection from all sides.

Acknowledgement

The organisers - NL Global Compact Network, the ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tropenbos International - would like to thank the following people for the successful outcome of this conference and production of this resulting report:

Ellen Top, Stanley Walet and Maarten Verboom for the logistics; Nick Pasiecznik for the report writing & editing; Nguyen Phuong Ha for the photography and report layout, and, finally, Herman Savenije and Henk Hoefsloot for the overall organization and content development of the conference.

The following ‘conversation’ arose from an idea by Herman Savenije for a ‘pre-conference interview’ that could be used to attract media attention. As it appears below, it was sent to (unspecified) Dutch journalists, appeared in the conference participants ‘pack’, and was posted online.

What future for Congo Basin forests and people?



A conversation...

...with two experts from the region, who share their views and perspectives...

Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet, Founder and President of the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF), Edea, Littoral Province, Cameroon

Alphonse Maindo, Programme Director of Tropenbos International DR Congo, Kisangani, Province Orientale, DR Congo

Cécile and Alphonse, you have both been deeply and passionately involved in issues surrounding the forests and people of the Congo Basin all your lives. What inspired you get involved – and keeps you involved?



Cécile: “I was born in the forest. I grew up in the forest. I know the forest” I saw from my earliest years how women’s needs were different – they *experienced* the forest *differently*. I then had a great opportunity, to study social forestry at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, and this gave me a great basis. Then I went to work in Cameroon, and saw the same issues in the ministry as in the forest. Women face different challenges... In a conference in 2009, I talked to women from nine other African countries, from Burundi, from DR Congo... and heard them all talk about the same problems that I saw my mother face all across the region. I had the idea that we should come together to find common solutions, that we should act *together* to influence policy. Things *must* change, as women must have access to forests

and forest resources that they need for their families. And in 2009, REFACOF was born. The region won’t succeed if women are excluded. Laws that are gender-neutral are blind to the real issues.

Alphonse: In the early 1990s I graduated just as the government ‘opened up’, with new NGOs becoming active in defending human and environmental rights. I would visit my grandparents farm and saw the issues and the impacts. But it was when I went to make a little business selling to artisanal miners and after a three-day trek through the forest, that I truly saw the destruction being wrought to forests *and* people... I saw how the exploitation of natural resources also destroys lives, and decided that I must work to save forests and lives. I saw with my own eyes the exploitation of our forests, and decided to dedicate my efforts to make a positive change, for human rights and the environment. In 2010, I started to work for Tropenbos, and here in Kisangani, primary forest is not far away, only 50 km in some places, and in two hours you can be lost in it.



Where are we today? What is the real situation you see from your work in the forest, what is being done about it, and what should be done?

Alphonse: We are perhaps lucky here, *thanks to* political instability. This means we only have artisanal millers who make less impact on the forest compared to large concessionaires who can clear whole areas... This also gives opportunities to everyone, including poorly paid government employees who earn a little extra from harvesting a few trees here and there, NTFPs [non-timber forest products] or farming. But, when a tree falls it makes more noise than a forest growing. We made advances in achieving improved forest governance, but we are facing challenges we have *never* seen before, such as overseas investments looking to buy all the forest land - land grabbing is a reality. Local/national elites also take lands for speculation from local communities. The government has also decided to increase the conserved forests to 20% of the area of the country, and we were a good example of REDD readiness once – but as country we don't have the means.

Cecile: We see the same problems throughout the region. Women don't have access to forests and forest resources that they need to improve livelihoods and combat climate change. At the institutional level, we need gender sensitivity and women-friendly laws. At the local level, we must work with private logging and mining companies and develop strategic plans that integrate the views of women's organizations. And we must sensitize traditional leaders to the benefits of empowering women. We will only achieve our goals in the region if women are empowered! And we need collective action, and where we all bring in what is needed to ensure that women have access to forests and forest resources. We have many oil palm and rubber companies coming in. They meet ministers, sign a deal, with no indication that the land is already being used, already 'belongs' to people who depend upon it. Land grabbing *is* happening, a lot, our focal points in DR Congo, Cameroon and the Central African Republic tell us about this regularly. It is a reality. Foreign companies are everywhere in the villages. And we need social and gender analysis before we talk to governments, to show them the boundaries, and how to talk to communities. We are ready to partner"

Alphonse: In DR Congo, foreign companies are having difficulties though, because civil society organizations are resisting. But land grabbing by our own 'elites' is ongoing, who are buying large areas especially around cities as speculation. The elites are taking the land, and it has become like the old feudal system in Europe, of peasants paying the 'lord' to work the land that was once his, anyway..."



How would you rank the threats and the problems to forests and people in the Congo Basin?

Alphonse: Mining in the worst threat in eastern DR Congo, both artisanal and industrial, for diamonds, gold, coltan, copper, cobalt..., both for forest destruction, pollution from the chemicals they use, and as a cause of conflict and human rights abuses. Slash and burn agriculture is a medium-level threat, along with logging, both artisanal and industrial. And forest destruction is further fuelled by increased demand for fuelwood, charcoal, timber and food, from urban development and migration, both internal and from other countries.

Cecile: If I talk to one hundred women, most would say that agriculture is the biggest threat to our forests, slash and burn farming, and industrial agriculture for new oil palm and rubber plantations. Energy is another threat, cutting trees for fuelwood and charcoal to sell in the cities, and to dry fish, which requires huge amounts of wood. And mining is a threat too – in the Central African Republic we hear stories how it destroys *everything*... There is also ‘animal conflict’, as wild animals from the forest destroy crops, and migration from conflict zones causing more conflict somewhere else, like over the borders from Cameroon to Chad and the Central African Republic. And petrol of course. Foreign companies keep calling it *exploration* but we know that it is *exploitation* – they *are* selling it, and destroying thousands of hectares of forest.

We often hear the term ‘weak governance’ as a cause of problems in the region. But what does ‘weak governance’ actually mean, to you?

Cecile: Weak governance means the failure of the state. Women feel completely abandoned. The State has given everything to foreigners, and they now have no control over anything. It is the ‘wild west’, yes.

Alphonse: This is true not just for women - governments have abandoned *everyone*. In forested areas, the state has effectively disappeared. And when it does appear, it is there only to collect taxes and to silence people who raise their voice. And in this situation, corruption and ‘the big people’ take control. Young people look to politics as a career, as this way, as we all see, you can buy a house after only a few months ‘work’...

Is there anything that you think the Dutch government could do to help the situation in the Congo Basin?

Alphonse: In the Congo Basin rests the future of our planet. You have to be there, and be involved. There are many conflicts, overexploitation of natural resources, human rights violations, governance issues... The Dutch government can help by using its influence within the EU at the international level to help – to stop the trafficking of arms that fuels these conflicts, to stop the trade in conflict minerals, to stop the trade in illegally harvested timber and other natural resources, and lobby for improved governance.

Cecile: Congo Basin countries have signed international agreements, and the Dutch government must ensure that they are respected and that the law is applied. It must support FLEGT and other opportunities. There is a huge potential in the region, and it is important to engage, but engage effectively. And that means including women and women’s organization in the dialogue, and other civil society organizations, and help to strengthen them so they speak louder, and clearer.

There are many Dutch and Dutch-based companies who would surely be interested in the potential returns from investing in the Congo Basin. What would you say to them?

Cecile: We want to build partnerships so that women can become real entrepreneurs. There is a huge potential, but we need training, equipment and markets. Let us build that bridge. We have many products from the forest, not just timber. We can help to harvest and process them. We are ready. And only six hours from Europe, we wait for you.

Alphonse: Costs are low, but opportunities are enormous. And though infrastructure is not well developed, the first great resource we have is our people. Lots of international companies are already making money here, like Heineken, Vodaphone, Orange, Total, so why don’t you come and join them. We are millions of people known for our hospitality, and we welcome you.

Do you have a few final words?

Cecile: We have a great opportunity in front of us – so now we must seize it. We want to build a relation with the Dutch people, and especially with Dutch women, to help us in our struggle.

Alphonse: This is a great opportunity to renew our relationship based on trust and equality between partners, so we can go forward with confidence, and that everyone can win. We have resources, we have great people, and want to work with others.



This transcript is written from notes taken during a two-hour conversation that happened over skype, on the morning of Tuesday 23rd May 2017, with Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet in Cameroon, Alphonse Maindo in DR Congo, Nick Pasiecznik in France, and Han van de Wiel in the Netherlands. The text has been verified by all involved.

Annex 2. Participant list - Central African Forest and People Conference

	First name	Last name	Organisation	Email
1	Flip	Aartsen	Sjoham Babaji Mission	flipaartsen@gmail.com
2	Mapouka	Achille	Ministere en charge de l'Environnement et des Forets (RCA)	amapouka@yahoo.fr
3	Arjan	Alkema	FSC the Netherlands	a.alkema@fsc.nl
4	Lucas	Bakker	Rainforest Alliance	lbakker@ra.org
5	Tullia	Baldassarri Höger von Högersthal	Interholco	Tullia.Baldassarri@interholco.ch
6	Emilie	Bär	Brouwer Envir.& Agric. Consultancy	emiliebar@gmail.com
7	Francisco	Bascope	Forest Consultant	sfbascope@gmail.com
8	Hans	Beeckman	Koninklijk Museum voor Midden Afrika, Tervuren	hans.beeckman@africamuseum.be
9	Elleke	Berkvens		edberkvens@planet.nl
10	Elsje	Berkvens		Elsjeberkvens@gmail.com
11	Franca	Berkvens	Vive La Initiative	meindertbrouwer@planet.nl
12	Yonas Taddese	Biru	Consulting Company	A-b-Development@gmx.com
13	Timothy	Boekhout van Solinge	Forest Crime Consultancy	timothyb@xs4all.nl
14	Elenga Bolumbu Entanga	Bolumbu Entanga Gaius	Ministère de l'Environnement et Developpement durable	gaius_elenga@yahoo.fr
15	René	Boot	Tropenbos International	rene.boot@tropenbos.org
16	Pieter	Borkent	Conservation International	consintl@hotmail.com
17	Nico	Bos	Ministry of Economic Affairs / Nature & Biodiversity Department	n.w.bos@minez.nl
18	Eppy	Boschma	Global Compact Netwerk NL	boschma@gcnetherlands.nl
19	Purabi	Bose	Independent / WUR visiting scholar	purabib2@gmail.com
20	KAMSU	Brice Armand	Cameroonian state	bricekamsu@yahoo.fr
21	Karen	Brinkhorst	St. Mint Media Productions	karen.brinkhorst@live.nl
22	Joost	Brouwer	Brouwer Envir. & Agric. Consultancy	brouwereac@online.nl
23	Willemijn	Brouwer	DSM	w.a.h.brouwer@gmail.com
24	Meindert	Brouwer	Communication Consultant	meindertbrouwer@planet.nl
25	Sietse	Brouwer		sietse.brouwer@kpnplanet.nl
26	Jetske	Brouwer		meindertbrouwer@planet.nl
27	Roelof	Buffinga	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	roelof.buffinga@minbuza.nl
28	Rob	Busink	Ministry of Economic Affairs	r.l.busink@minez.nl
29	Ndjaly	Bweta	Plantation Utisongo-Kisangani	desirebweta@yahoo.fr
30	Pierre	Cavalini	Universiteit Utrecht	pierre.cavalini@ziggo.nl
31	Shirleen	Chin	Institute for Environmental Security	shirleenchin@envirosecurity.org
32	Montosh Kumar	Das	PROSHIKA	montosh.das@gmail.com
33	Emmanuelle	de Foy	Ambassade van België	Jacinta.PalosLadeiro@diplobel.fed.be

34	Ineke	de Groen	www.degroendesign.nl	ineke@degroendesign.nl
35	Kees	de Groot	Mint Media Productons	keesdegroot29@gmail.com
36	Erik	den Boer	Erik den Boer Produkties	erik.a.denboer@gmail.com
37	Elisabeth	Dieleman	Free-lance Consultant	ef@dieleman.biz
38	Paul	Dielissen	PUM	paul.dielissen@pum.nl
39	Ellen	Dokkum	KPMG	dokkum.ellen@kpmg.nl
40	Fiona	Dragstra	Both ENDS	f.dragstra@bothends.org
41	Thomas	Duurland	IDH The Sustainable Trade Initiative	duurland@idhtrade.org
42	Jan	Erfteimeijer	PUM Forestry	jan.erfteimeijer@pum.nl
43	Marie-Cakupewa	Fundiko	Stichting DR Congo a la Carte (DRCC)	chakumarie4@gmail.com
44	Arnold	Galavazi	Oxfam Novib	arnold.galavazi@oxfamnovib.nl
45	Peter	Galavazi	VCL	pgalavazi@gmail.com
46	Chris	Geerling	VTB	carnbee.consult@hetnet.nl
47	Peter	Godefrooij		peter.godefrooij@gmail.com
48	Hans	Groenendijk	TISE Consultancy BV	groenendijkj@gmail.com
49	Ronald	Goldberg	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	ronald.goldberg@minbuza.nl
50	Nicolas	Gros de Seta	WSF	nicolas@worldsustainabilityfund.nl
51	Ton	Habers		adb.habers@hccnet.nl
52	Mick	Hartstra	De Voorzitters	mick@devoorzitters.nl
53	Freek	Hasselaar	Hasplan BV	freek.hasselaar@gmail.com
54	Simone	Henning	Environmental Sociologist	simonehenning9@kpnmail.nl
55	Henk	Hoefsloot	Tropenbos International	henk.hoefsloot@tropenbos.org
56	Lara	Hotyat	VU	lhotyat@gmail.com
57	Paul	Howes Smith		phowes@kpnmail.nl
58	Florence	Husen	Florence Husen	florence.husen@iae.nl
59	Yousif	Hussin	ITC, Faculty of Geoinformation Science and Earth Observation, University of Twente	y.a.hussin@utwente.nl
60	Yousif	Hussin	University Twente ITC	y.a.hussin@utwente.nl
61	Mohammed Shaffiq	Iddrisu	Ridmut Consult	iddrisumohammedshaffiq@yahoo.com
62	Verina	Ingram	Wageningen UR	verina.ingram@wur.nl
63	Noutd	Janssen	Noutorious Music	noutd.janssen@iae.nl
64	Hester	Jellema		hajellema@hotmail.com
65	Judith	Jobse	Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences	judith.jobse@hvhl.nl
66	Jean Claude	Kalinganire	Association pour le Développement Global des Batwa au Rwanda (ADBR)	adbr_2003@hotmail.com
67	Patrice	Kamkuimo-Piam	Freelance Consultant	patkapp20002001@yahoo.fr
68	Jean Pierre	Karabaranga	Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda	ambalahaye@gmail.com
69	Nelly	Koetsier	CongoNed	nk@congoned.dds.nl
70	Paul	Kok	Hill+Knowlton Strategies BV	Paul.kok@hkstrategies.com
71	Annelies	Konincks		peter.godefrooij@gmail.com
72	Tom	Kools	Nature^squared	tom@n2-inc.org
73	Jan	Krikken	Naturalis Biodiversity Center	j.krikken@planet.nl
74	Patrick Milabyo	Kyamusugulwa	Erasmus University Rotterdam International Institute of Social Studies	pmilabyo@gmail.com

75	Erik	Lammerts vanBueren	ISAFOR	elvb@isafor.nl
76	Lola	Leal	EU FLEGT Facility, EFI	iola.leal@efi.int
77	Nico	Leek	PUM	nicoleek@upcmail.nl
78	Alexis	Leenders	Ambassade van België	Jacinta.PalosLadeiro@diplobel.fed.be
79	Leon	Lola Mbuwa	Freelance	leon.lolambuwa@gmail.com
80	Alphonse	Maindo	Tropenbos International DR Congo	amaindo@gmail.com
81	Judith	Marinissen	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands	judith.marinissen@minbuza.nl
82	Renzo	Martens	Institute for Human Activity	office@humanactivities.org
83	Kayata	Masiyaleti	Forestry Department	kmasiyaleti1973@gmail.com
84	Severin	Mbog Mbog	Trow-Cameroun	severinmbog@gmail.com
85	Odette	Melono	Embassy of Cameroon	ambacam-la-haye@planet.nl
86	Roger Julien	Menga	Ambassade de la Republique du Congo	embassycongo.secretariat@gmail.com
87	Pieter	Moonen	KU Leuven	pieter.moonen@kuleuven.be
88	Edward	Muguheli	Greenzones of Perkerra Catchment Community Association	muguheli@yahoo.com
89	Cécile	Ndjebet	President, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)	cecilendjebet28@gmail.com
90	Pierre	Ndjeto	PERAD	perad_ong@yahoo.fr
91	Estelle Manuela	Nganlo Keguep	Growth continue	mkeguep@gmail.com
92	Ha	Nguyen	Tropenbos International	ha@tropenbos.org
93	Heri	Njila	CongoNed	herinjila8@gmail.com
94	Hans	Nusselder	CDR	hnusselder@cdr.or.cr
95	Gerard	Okonkwo	Wageningen University	okonkwogerarde@gmail.com
96	Marja	Oloff	Sjoham Babaji Mission	marjaolff@gmail.com
97	Hans	Olykan	Studio Olykan	hans@olykan.nl
98	Robinson	Orume	Korup Rainforest Conservation Society	orumerobipam2010@gmail.com
99	Leslie	Ouarzazi	CAFI Secretariat, UNDP	leslie.ouarzazi@undp.org
100	Patrice André	PA'AH	CAFT	caft.cameroun@gmail.com
101	Marc	Parren	WRI	marc.parren@wri.org
102	Nick	Pasiecznik	Agroforestry Enterprises	npasiecznik@wanadoo.fr
103	Patrice	Passe Sanand	Central African Organisation for the Defense of the Nature	p_passesanand@yahoo.fr
104	Richard	Pearson	Tree Supporter	richard@treesupporter.nl
105	Sara	Ramirez	University Utrecht	SOI.sararamirez@gmail.com
106	Mirjam	Ros-Tonen	University of Amsterdam	m.a.f.ros-tonen@uva.nl
107	Marieke	Sassen	UN Environment WCMC	marieke.sassen@unep-wcmc.org
108	Herman	Savenije	Tropenbos International	herman.savenije@tropenbos.org
109	Lars	Schoones	Van Hall Larenstein	lars.schoones@hvhl.nl
110	Iris	Schuitemaker	Universiteit van Amsterdam	Irisschuitemaker@hotmail.com
111	Jolien	Schure	Schure Research	jolien@schure-research.com
112	Christopher	Schwarz	Wageningen University & Research	christopher.schwarz@wur.nl
113	Ramesh	Singh		Ramesh1051@yahoo.com
114	Saint-Jérôme	Sitamon	Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme Pygmées (MEFP)	sitamon_jerome@gmail.com
115	Henk	Smeenk	EduClima	henk@dcscomercio.com

116	Grace	Smouter	Clery Gottlieb Steen and Hamilton LLP	gsmouter@cgsh.com
117	Natysha	Smouter		gsmouter@gmail.com
118	Ardi	Stoios-Braken	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	judith.marinissen@minbuza.nl
119	Hilde	Stroot	Greenpeace	hstroot@greenpeace.org
120	Dr. Tata Emmanuel	Sunjo	Department of Geography, University of Buea, Cameroon	tata.emmanuel@ubuea.cm
121	Paul Armel	Tchatchoua Tcheya	Trow-Cameroun	trowcameroun@gmail.com
122	Marlou	van Campen	WNF	marlouvincampen@xs4all.nl
123	Han	van de Wiel	ImpactReporters	wiel@impactreporters.eu
124	Martijn	Van den Berge	Pbl	Martijn.vandenberge@pbl.nl
125	Jan	van den Herik	KPMG	vandenherik.jan@kpmg.nl
126	Paul	van den Heuvel	VVNH	p.vandenheuvel@vvnh.nl
127	Nora	van der Hoeven	Greenpeace	nora.van.der.hoeven@greenpeace.org
128	Leo	van der Vlist	Nederlands Centrum voor Inheemse Volken	leo.vandervlist@nciv.net
129	Jaap	van der Waarde	WWF Netherlands	jwaarde@wwf.nl
130	Ton	van der Zon	Naturalis	tonvanderzon@gmail.com
131	Hilde	van Dijkhorst	Aidenvironment	hilde@aidenvironment.org
132	Joost	van Elfrinkhof	PUM	elfrinkhof11@zonnet.nl
133	Frieda	van Essen	Frieda van Essen Communicatie Advies	fr.vanessen@planet.nl
134	Annemiek	van Gijn	All for Nature Travel	annemiek.vangijn@allfornature.nl
135	Indra	van Gisbergen	Fern	indra@fern.org
136	André	van Heemstra	NL Global Compact Network	boschma@gcnetherlands.nl
137	Heloise	van Houten	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	heloise-van.houten@minbuza.nl
138	Marijke	van Kuijk	Utrecht University	m.vankuijk@uu.nl
139	Danielle	van Oijen	Milieudefensie	danielle.van.oijen@milieudefensie.nl
140	Omer	van Renterghem	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	omer-van.renterghem@minbuza.nl
141	Renaat	van Rompaey	Wageningen International Experts	Renaat@wix.nl
142	Susan	van Voorst Vader		Susanvanvoorstvader@yahoo.com
143	Hans	Vellema	Tropenbos International	hans.vellema@tropenbos.org
144	Maarten	Verboon	Tropenbos International	m.j.verboon@students.uu.nl
145	Inge	Vianen	Green Livelihoods Alliance	inge.vianen@milieudefensie.nl
146	Teun	Visser	Rutgers Nisso	vissertony62@gmail.com
147	Stanley	Walet	Tropenbos International	stanley.walet@tropenbos.org
148	Elbert	Waller	KPMG Meijburg & Co	waller.elbert@kpmg.com
149	Tieme	Wanders	Form international	t.wanders@forminternational.nl
150	Parfait Désiré	Zoga Doundongo	Plateforme des OSC pour la Gestion Durable des Ressources Naturelles et l'environnement	zogaparfait@yahoo.fr
151	Joeri	Zwerts	Universiteit Utrecht	j.a.zwerts@uu.nl