

**CONFERENCE ON CENTRAL AFRICAN
MOIST FOREST ECOSYSTEMS (CEFDHAC)
OR THE BRAZZAVILLE PROCESS**

**Support Project for Sub-Regional Co-operation for the
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Central African
Moist Forest Ecosystems**

SECOND TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2001-SEPTEMBER 2002

CARPE FUNDING

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A-TECHNICAL REPORT

1- INTRODUCTION

As the Facilitating Agency of the Conference on Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC), the IUCN Regional Office for Central Africa, for the second consecutive year, received financial assistance from USAID/CARPE aimed at strengthening the involvement of NGOs, Parliamentarians and local organised Communities through their participation in national and sub-regional fora organised under the purview of the CEFDHAC.

This report presents a summary of the objectives, expected outputs, recommendations and perspectives for each activity during the period running from December 2001 to September 2002.

All the activities were executed in conformity with the Programme earlier drawn up by the CEFDHAC Secretariat and submitted to USAID/CARPE after consultations with stakeholders. During this period, all planned workshops were organised except for the sub-regional workshop on the participation of indigenous peoples in the management of Central African forest ecosystems that was postponed to March 2003 at the request of the beneficiaries.

It concerned the following activities:

- Validation workshop of the Taskforce report on the setting up of a consultation framework for actors involved in the conservation and development of the periphery of the Dja Biosphere Reserve (Cameroon) organised in Abong-Mbang, Cameroon from 14 to 15 March 2002;

- Second Parliamentarians workshop on the sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems held in Douala, Cameroon from 21 to 22 March 2002;
- Support to Parliamentarians to organise information sessions on the Central African Parliamentarians Network and to prepare for the 4th CEFDHAC Conference (March-April 2002);
- Contribution in the participation of NGOs and Parliamentarians in the 2nd Preparatory Meeting to the 4th CEFDHAC Conference organised in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo from 7 to 8 May 2002;
- Contribution of NGOs and Parliamentarians at the 4th CEFDHAC Conference organised in Kinshasa from 10 to 13 June 2002.

2- SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2-1 Validation workshop of the Taskforce report on the setting up of a consultation framework for actors involved in the conservation and development of the periphery of the Dja Biosphere Reserve

2-1-1 Participants

Organised under the high patronage of the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry (MINEF) of Cameroon, the workshop witnessed the participation of more than 80 persons among which were administrative and religious authorities, logging companies (PALLISCO, Ingénierie forestière), representatives of national and international NGOs (SOS Forêts Cameroun, WWF, ASBAK, CASF, COOPAACSF, OAPIDE, Enviro Protect, CODEVIR, PERAD, CADEF, CIAD, OCBB, AMWAY Cameroon, CEF Dja, CAFT, CIFOR, CAISALP, ROLD, ADJUR, PREVERT, CERAD, GRAMUE/REFADD,

etc.) and communication professionals. NGOs took active part in the organisation and proceeding of the forum.

2-1-2 Objectives

Overall objective

The overall objective of the workshop was to contribute in the development and sustainable management of natural resources of the Dja Biosphere Reserve.

Specific Objectives

Its specific objectives were:

- Encourage exchanges and consultations on other types of multiple-actors partnership in Cameroon and other Central Africa countries;
- Enrich and validate the Taskforce report;
- Foster adherence of stakeholders to the forum.

2-1-3 Outputs obtained by the workshop

The main outputs obtained by the workshop are:

- Sharing of various experiences on multiple-actors partnerships in the conservation of natural resources and development;
- Enriching and validating the Taskforce report;
- Formalising the adherence and commitment of stakeholders by their signatures;

- Fixing the next steps of the workshop: finalising the organisational structure of the forum (before 30 April 2002), signing of the Order to create the forum by the Senior Divisional Officer of Haut-Nyong (before 31 May 2002) and developing a priority action programme for the forum (before 30 June 2002).

2-1-4 Recommendations

Participants at the workshop made the following key recommendations:

- Need to honour commitments between partners;
- Involving the population in efforts made to manage fauna and taking into consideration feeding habits;
- Involving, effectively, logging companies in information circulation on sustainable management and in anti-poaching and poverty alleviation activities;
- Need to further involve the population in drawing up and implementing the management plan;
- Need for NGOs to be specialised in their well targeted field of intervention;
- Need to open up to other existing fora of the sub-region in order to capitalise on lessons learnt;
- Adopting an appropriate approach to resolve conflicts;
- Drawing up, by the Technical Co-ordinator of a strategic action plan for the forum and rallying technical and financial resources

that can guarantee its implementation thanks to IUCN assistance;

- Legalising the Constitution of NGOs operating in the periphery of the Dja Reserve;
- Taking into account the concerns of local communities by local NGOs and associations, especially as concerns damages caused by animals;
- Organising visits to the Mount Cameroon Project that is already well advanced in the organisation of traditional hunting.

2-1-5 Perspectives

Within the framework of the Forum of actors working for the conservation and development of the Dja Reserve, the CEFDHAC shall continue to play the role of facilitator. In this regard, the CEFDHAC shall endeavour to:

- Promote a permanent framework for exchange of experiences between various conservation actors;
- Facilitate consultation between various stakeholders in a bid to have a synergy of actions;
- Support efforts of the administration, local populations and NGOs in developing projects aimed at improving the living conditions of the population;
- Raise funds to support development and conservation institutions; and
- Support actions aimed at reducing poaching.

2-2 Second Parliamentarians workshop on the sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems

2-2-1 Participants

The Parliamentarians workshop on the sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems was attended by members of the network from 6 Central African countries: Gabon, Burundi, Congo Brazzaville, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad. NGOs that are members of the CEFDHAC Contact Group (African Women Network for Sustainable Development (REFADD) Partnership and CERUT) were associated in the workshop for them to contribute.

2-2-2 Objectives

Overall objective

The overall objective was to strengthen the involvement of Central African Parliamentarians in the sustainable management of Central African moist forest ecosystems.

Specific objectives

The workshop aimed at three specific objectives:

- Strengthening exchanges on the involvement of Parliamentarians in the management of Central African forest ecosystems;
- Drawing up a (strategic) workplan for the Parliamentarians Network;
- Analysing and adopting an internal rules and regulations for the Network.

2-2-3 Outputs obtained

The main outputs obtained by the workshop are:

- Exchange of experiences on the involvement of Parliaments in the drawing up and adoption of laws in Central African countries. A matrix specifying the stages in drawing up laws in each country was drawn up;
- A strategic action plan for the Network on the basis of expectations of the participants of the workshop and those of the population and the electorate was drawn up. This strategic action plan includes, the vision, mission, goal, strategies and priority objectives of the Network;
- The internal rules and regulations of the Network were amended and adopted.

2-2-4 Perspectives

At regional level

- The Parliamentarians Network requested the assistance of IUCN to raise funds to concretise actions retained;
- The Network shall formalise collaboration with other sub-regional initiatives, the private sector and the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law.

At national level

- At national level, participants envisaged the setting up of National Groups of Parliamentarians.

2-2-5 Recommendations

The workshop formulated the following key recommendations:

- Consolidate the Network by finalising the Internal Rules and Regulations, developing partnerships, promoting the Network internally and raising funds;
- Raise awareness of the population (communication) in a bid to involve them in the management of ecosystems;
- Contribute in the implementation of the Regional Strategic Action Plan on environmental and biological diversity resources (SAP);
- Use the Day of the Tree to promote the Network;
- Make an inventory of legislative problems in the sub-region by the Network.

2-3 Support to Parliamentarians to organise information sessions on the Central African Parliamentarians Network and to prepare the fourth CEFDHAC Conference

2-3-1 Objective and target groups

The President and Secretary of the Parliamentarians' Network, respectively in Gabon and the Democratic Republic of Congo, received assistance to disseminate the Strategic Action Plan to various Parliaments and other stakeholders and prepare the 4th CEFDHAC Conference.

This assistance was a follow up to the recommendations of the second Parliamentarians workshop especially as concerns revitalising the Bureau of the Network.

Thanks to this assistance, Parliamentarians, NGOs and other stakeholders including donors were better informed on the network's objectives and perspectives.

2-3-2 Main outputs

Thanks to this assistance, the following main outputs were obtained:

- Organisation of awareness meetings in the University of Lumbumbashi on the Network's objectives and on the themes of the 4th CEFDHAC Conference by Honourable Bofaya Botaka in May 2002;
- Raising awareness of other Parliamentarians of the DRC for them to take part in the 4th CEFDHAC Conference. In this vein, the DRC Parliament was represented by more than 5 persons;
- Facilitation of information exchange between the President of the Bureau based in Libreville in Gabon, the Vice President based in Brazzaville in Congo and the Secretary based in Lumbubashi in the DRC;
- Contribution of Parliamentarians in enriching the Constitution of the CEFDHAC adopted during the 4th session.

2-4 Contribution in the participation of NGOs and Parliamentarians in the 2nd Preparatory Meeting of the 4th CEFDHAC Conference organised in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo

2-4-1 Objectives of the assistance and Target Groups

The second preparatory meeting to the 4th CEFDHAC held in Kinshasa from 7 to 8 May 2002. Its objectives were to adopt the Programme of the 4th CEFDHAC Conference, determine the contribution of stakeholders, develop a fundraising strategy for the 4th CEFDHAC Conference, the communication strategy and amend the CEFDHAC Constitution.

The meeting was attended by more than 50 persons.

The Parliamentarians Network was represented by the Parliamentarians of Gabon, the DRC and Congo.

NGOs were represented by the Co-ordinator of AFAN and other Rwandan, Burundian, Cameroonian, Central African and DRC NGOs. Their contributions were very determinant in the success of the workshop.

2-4-2 Main outputs attained

The main outputs attained were geared toward contributing in improving the organisation of the 4th CEFDHAC Conference. They include mostly:

- The commitment of NGOs and Parliamentarians to contribute in implementing the communication strategy;
- Their contribution to enriching the programme of the 4th CEFDHAC Conference;
- Their contribution to revising and improving the CEFDHAC Constitution.

Alongside the meeting, Central African NGOs organised a consultation meeting on 9 May under the chairmanship of Zachée

Zoh Ngandembou, Co-ordinator of AFAN during which the following points were analysed:

- Highlighting the commitment of the African Forest Action Network (AFAN) in its support to the CEFDHAC as seen by its involvement in all its activities since its creation in 1996;
- The communication strategy of AFAN and REFADD geared toward organising local meetings to raise awareness of stakeholders to the 4th CEFDHAC Conference and the dissemination of posters, folders and all relevant information relating to the 4th CEFDHAC;
- The involvement of NGOs of the DRC in organising the 4th CEFDHAC Conference and taking their position into account during the Conference.

2-5 Participation of NGOs and Parliamentarians at the 4th CEFDHAC Conference

2-5-1 Objectives and target groups

The 4th CEFDHAC Conference took place in Kinshasa from 10 to 13 June 2002. The 4th CEFDHAC took place under the theme "Reconciling the management of Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems with poverty alleviation" Four sub-themes were identified, viz.:

- Challenges and impacts of national, regional and international policies on cost-benefits of managing Central African ecosystems;
- Armed conflicts and natural resource preservation in Central Africa;

- Managing Central African forest ecosystems in this era of globalisation;
- Forest and sustainable management partnership.

17 papers divided into four sub-themes were presented.

More than 200 participants took part in the Conference among which were several NGOs, representatives of Parliamentarians and indigenous people.

2-5-2 Outputs of the Conference

During the Conference, NGOs, representatives of Parliamentarians and indigenous people presented papers that determined the formulation of recommendations and the adoption of the CEFDHAC Constitution. They include:

- Involving parliamentarians in the sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems and poverty alleviation, by Honourable Blaise Dougandaga (Gabon) of the Parliamentarians Network;
- Livelihood of indigenous peoples within the backdrop of insecurity in the Great Lakes region, by Kapupu Diwa Mutimanwa (DRC) of PIDP-Kivu;
- Contribution of NGOs in the sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems and poverty alleviation, by Zachée Nzoh-Ngandembou (Cameroon) of AFAN;
- Declaration of NGOs and indigenous and local people of Central Africa, calling on the donor community to support the CEFDHAC in order to perpetuate its present status as a platform for consultation, exchange of information and experiences for the

sustainable management of Central Africa's biological resources by Mr Emmanuel Bayani Ngoye (Gabon) of the CIAJE NGO.

- A paper of Enviro-Protect and CERAD (Centre for Research and Action for Sustainable Development) on Alternative Conflict Management relating to the management of forest resources in the Congo Basin: Lessons learnt from ongoing experiences in the periphery of the Dja Reserve in Eastern Cameroon by Patrice Bigombe Logo and Jean Abbe Abbesolo (Cameroon).

2-5-3 Recommendations

Outputs of work in commissions resulted in the following recommendations:

- 1- Encourage the implementation of various conventions in the area of the environment and poverty alleviation ratified by Central African countries;
- 2- Strengthen the Parks for Peace Programme by extending it to other protected areas and putting in place a capacity building programme for the military and conservation staff on sustainable management of natural resources during armed conflicts
- 3- Initiate a programme to safeguard the livelihoods of indigenous populations of Central African countries with support from development partners;
- 4- Facilitate the capitalisation of findings of research-development and lessons learnt from field experiences on sustainable forest ecosystem management policies and practices;

- 5- Facilitate the drawing up of a legal framework in order to institutionalise partnerships between the private sector and indigenous and local communities in the management, exploitation and enhancement of timber and non-timber forest products in CEFDHAC member countries;
- 6- Promote participatory management in CEFDHAC countries, including the drawing up of an appropriate legal framework by these countries, as an approach that make it possible to satisfy both the exigencies of sustainable management of natural resources and poverty alleviation concerns;
- 7- Initiate and facilitate fora at local and national levels for various stakeholders involved in the CEFDHAC;
- 8- Promote the implementation of management initiatives that mainstream innovative approaches (reduced impact logging, certification, code of conduct) and contribute in ensuring sustainable livelihoods for populations (domestication of animal and plant species);
- 9- Finalise the development of project proposals that are amongst the priorities of the SAP and solicit donor support for required funds for the implementation of the SAP;
- 10- Promote responsible practices in wildlife management when drawing up and implementing management plans for forest concessions.

2-5-4 Perspectives:

The Conference participants recommended that donors should support the CEFDHAC and its partners in the implementation of the recommendations of this session.

Following official requests to host future CEFDHAC sessions from member countries, the following timetable was adopted:

- 5th session, Bangui CAR, 2004;
- 6th session, Libreville, Gabon, 2006;
- 7th session, N'djamena, Chad, 2008;
- 8th session, Sao Tome and Principe, 2010.

3- Conclusions and perspectives

Conclusions

The activities of the second year of the Project were executed in a very participatory manner. In fact, thanks to CARPE support, the involvement of CEFDHAC stakeholders, particularly NGOs, Parliamentarians, Women and Youth Groups was effective throughout the sub-region.

Thus, thanks to the communication strategy implemented before, during and after the Conference, the 4th CEFDHAC session witnessed massive participation and mobilisation. This confirmed CEFDHAC's ability to gather and mobilise various stakeholders for sound management of the sub-region's ecosystem.

The CEFDHAC made it possible for actors whose countries are at war to sit around the same table. In fact, in spite of the socio-political context of the sub-region, the CEFDHAC has enabled the participation of NGOs and indigenous people of Rwanda, Burundi and the DRC especially at Bukavu.

During the 4th CEFDHAC Conference, the Constitution was adopted and synergies between the CEFDHAC and other relevant sub-regional initiatives notably the COMIFAC were finetuned.

The Conference enabled involvement of stakeholders to be strengthened, especially NGOs, local and indigenous collectivities in sustainable management by committing the stakeholders further in the sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems and poverty alleviation;

The Project has had a high multiplier effect on other donors and development partners such as the Netherlands IUCN Committee, the European Union, the Belgian Co-operation, the Cameroon Loggers Syndicate, the Cameroon Airlines company, by encouraging them to be involved in the organisation of the 4th CEFDHAC Conference and in funding programmes aimed at supporting the CEFDHAC in future.

Perspectives

In the short-term

The Facilitating Agency of CEFDHAC shall within the next six months finalise, publish and disseminate the Proceedings of the 4th CEFDHAC Conference. It will continue to involve AFAN, REFADD, the Parliamentarians' Network and other networks in planning future activities.

Also, it will be necessary to continue to implement the communication strategy in order to capitalise on the achievements of the 4th CEFDHAC Conference and get the highest possible number of actors.

Alongside, raising of additional funds to organise sub-regional fora shall continue. It is important to envisage additional support for many NGOs and indigenous people to take part in the workshop.

In the long-term

The implementation of the recommendations of the 4th CEFDHAC Conference and past sessions shall be one of the major concerns of the IUCN that will continue to act as the Facilitating Agency of this process.

Also, IUCN shall continue to facilitate regional and national fora in keeping with the recommendations of the 2nd COMIFAC Conference held in Yaounde in June 2002. In this regard, it will facilitate raising funds needed to organise these fora.

Appendix 1

EAST PROVINCE

HAUT NYONG DIVISION

DIVISIONAL OFFICE OF ABONG MBANG

REGULATIONS AND PERSONNEL OFFICE

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

Peace-Work-Fatherland

PREFECTORAL ORDER NO. 175/AP/B13/BRP

**To create a Consultation Forum for Actors involved in
Conservation and Development in the periphery of the Dja
Biosphere Reserve**

The Senior Administrative Officer

Senior Divisional Officer of Haut Nyong

Mindful of the Constitution;

Mindful of Law No. 94/001 of 20 January 1994 to lay down
forestry and wildlife regulations;

Mindful of Decree No. 95/466/PM of 20 July 1995, to fix the
implementation modalities of wildlife regulations;

Mindful of Decree No. 95/678/PM of 18 December to institute an
indicative framework for land use in the southern forest area;

Mindful of Decree No. 72/349 of 24 July 1972 to organise the administration of the United Republic of Cameroon and its subsequent amendments;

Mindful of Decree No. 98/147 of 14 July 1998 to organise the Ministry of Territorial Administration;

Mindful of Decree No. 78/485 of 9 November 1978 to fix the attributions of heads of administrative constituencies and the organisations and staff to assist them in the discharge of their duties, amended and completed by Decree No. 97/024 of 18 January 1979;

Mindful of Decree No. 2001/316 of 12 October 2001 to appoint Mr Nana Jean, Senior Divisional Officer of the Haut Nyong;

Mindful of the Final Communiqué of the Workshop to set up a consultation framework for actors involved in the conservation and development of the Lomie region held on 22 and 23 October 2001 at Lomie;

Mindful of the Final Communiqué of the Workshop to validate the report on the functioning of the forum held in Abong Mbang on 14 and 15 March 2002;

HEREBY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

From the date of signature of this Order, a Consultation Forum for Actors involved in the Conservation and Development in the periphery of the Dja Biosphere Reserve is created.

Article 2

- (1) The overall objective of the Forum shall be to promote the conservation of the Dja Reserve and the sustainable development of the peripheral zone.
- (2) The specific objectives of the Forum shall be as follows:
 - Promote a permanent framework for exchange of experiences between various conservation and development partners (populations, NGOs, economic operators and administrations);
 - Facilitate consultation between various stakeholders in a bid to have a synergy of actions;
 - Make various development and conservation actors to work in a coherent manner;
 - Support efforts of the administration, local populations NGOs and other partners in developing projects aimed at improving on the living conditions of the population;
 - Encourage the emergence of research on the sustainable use of non-timber natural resources;
 - Raise funds to support development and conservation institutions; and
 - Support actions aimed at reducing poaching.

Article 3

The territory of the Forum shall be the Dja Biosphere Reserve and the entire peripheral area. However, its present actions shall focus in the eastern periphery.

Article 4

The duration of the forum shall be unlimited. However, in case of dissolution, for what ever reason, the property of the Forum shall be bequeathed to the Services of the Conservator of the Dja Biosphere Reserve.

Article 5

The fields of intervention of the Forum shall be as follows:

- Management of conflicts related to the exploitation and conservation of natural resources between actors (mediation and arbitration);
- Facilitation of communication, exchanges, implementation of synergies and a common vision;
- Promotion of capacity building of actors (institutional, technical and organisational);
- Support fundraising.

Article 6

- (1) The organs to govern the Forum shall be: the General Assembly, the General Supervision, the Technical Co-ordination and the Facilitation.

- (2) The General Assembly shall be made up of all conservation and development actors. It shall meet once a year, convened by the General Supervisor after a proposal by the Technical Co-ordinator. However, it may meet in extraordinary session, convened by the General Supervisor or by 2/3 of its members.
- (3) The General Supervision shall be carried out by the Senior Divisional Officer with territorial jurisdiction, who shall ensure the smooth running of the Forum.
- (4) The Technical Co-ordination shall be the executive organ of the Forum. It shall be chaired by the Conservator of the Dja Biosphere Reserve.

Within the Technical Co-ordination, taskforces shall be created to deal with matters related to specific areas of activity. They shall include:

- management of natural resources;
- support to development;
- forest royalties;
- impact and interaction ;
- organisational and institutional support;
- information management and communication.

Taskforces shall meet when necessary and the competent Divisional Delegate shall be the resource person.

- (5) Facilitation of the work of these various organs shall be ensured for the moment by IUCN. Any other interested actors may join IUCN.
- (6) The functions of General Supervisor, Technical Co-ordinator, Facilitator and member shall be free. However, recurrent charges shall be supported by the budget of the Forum.

Article 7

- (1) Sanctions that members of the Forum shall face in case they violate the provisions of this Order or recommendations of the General Assembly shall be as follows:

- Warning;
- Query;
- Suspension;
- Expulsion.

- (2) The above-mentioned sanctions shall be meted and notified to the concerned by the General Supervisor on the proposal of the General Assembly.

Article 8

This Order shall be registered, published and communicated wherever necessary.

Signed in Abong Mbang, this 29 May 2002-10-04

By Mr Nana Jean
The Senior Divisional Officer

Cc.:

- MINAT/Yaounde;
- MINEF/Yaounde;
- GPE/Bertoua;
- SDO Dja et Lobo/Sangmelima ;
- PDEF/Bertoua ;
- Concerned ;
- Files/Archives

4TH CONFERENCE ON CENTRAL AFRICAN MOIST FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

KINSHASA, 10 to 13 June 2002

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The 4th Conference on Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC) took place in Kinshasa from 10 to 13 June 2002, in keeping with the resolution on the follow-up mechanism of the CEFDHAC, adopted by the maiden Conference of Brazzaville.

All countries concerned by the process were represented by Ministers in charge of forest ecosystems or their representatives, parliamentarians, representatives of the private and public sectors, NGOs, local populations and indigenous populations.

Sub-regional and international organisations and bilateral co-operation organisations interested in the management of forest ecosystems also took active part in the Conference.

The opening ceremony was presided over by the Representative of the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, His Excellency Mira Ndjoko, Minister of the Interior. It was made up of three speeches:

- The statement of the Director General of the World Conservation Union (IUCN);
- An address by the outgoing Current Chair of the CEFDHAC; and
- The opening speech of the Representative of the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The theme of the 4th CEFDHAC was "Reconciling the management of Central African forest ecosystems with poverty alleviation".

Four sub-themes were identified, viz.:

- Challenges and impacts of national, regional and international policies on cost-benefits of managing Central African ecosystems;
- Armed conflicts and natural resource preservation in Central Africa;
- Managing Central African forest ecosystems in this era of globalisation;
- Partnership in sustainable forest management.

The Bureau of the 4th CEFDHAC was made up of:

- Chair: His Excellency, Salomon Banamuhere Baliene, Minister of Land Affairs, the Environment and Tourism of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- Vice Chair: His Excellency, Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy, in charge of Fisheries and Water Resources of the Republic of Congo;
- Second Vice Chair: His Excellency, Jean-Michel Mandaba, Minister Delegate in charge of Forestry of the Central African Republic;
- General Rapporteur: Eulalie Bashige Baliruhya, PDG ICCN, DRC;
- Rapporteurs:

- Raymond Ndomba-Ngoye, Director of Forest Production, Gabon,
 - Fidèle Nkounkou, CEFDHAC National Correspondent for Congo Brazzaville,
 - Ursule Zang Zang, CEFDHAC National Correspondent for Cameroon,
 - Honourable Moussa Ndoa, CAR.
- Members:
 - All National Correspondents,
 - Zachée Nzoh Ngandembou, AFAN,
 - Hélène Aye Modo, Cameroon.

After setting up the Bureau of the Conference, the new Current Chair of the CEFDHAC, the Minister of Land Affairs, the Environment and Tourism of the Democratic Republic of Congo opened the first plenary session. This included the reading of the Secretariat's report, the inaugural keynote address and presentations on the four sub-themes of the Conference.

The progress report of the Secretariat for June 2000 to June 2002 was presented by Messrs Daniel Ngantou and Bihini Won wa Musiti. This report was completed by a presentation on the findings of the evaluation of the CEFDHAC Support Project presented by Mr Paul Scholte. The inaugural keynote address was made by Mr Jean Luc Roux of DFID.

Papers on the sub-themes of the Conference were introduced by eight presentations on CEFDHAC country experiences on reconciling the management of Central African forest ecosystems with poverty alleviation, presented by the Forestry Ministers of Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as Representatives of the Ministers of Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe and Chad.

17 presentations, divided into four sub-themes, were later made. They were as follows:

Sub-theme 1: Challenges and impacts of national, regional and international policies on cost-benefits of managing Central African ecosystems.

- Involving parliamentarians in the sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems and poverty alleviation, by Honourable Blaise Dougandaga of the Parliamentarians Network;
- Contribution of NGOs in the sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems and poverty alleviation, by Zachée Nzoh-Ngandembou of AFAN;
- The potential of instruments of the Convention on Climate Change for sustainable development of the forestry sector in Africa, by Alain Karsenty of CIRAD France;
- The code of conduct for sustainable management of Central African forest ecosystems, by Jean-Jacques Landrot of IFIA;
- Challenges and impacts of national, regional and international policies on cost-benefits of managing Central African forest ecosystems, by Theodore Trefon of ULB-CARPE-ERAIFT;
- Timber harvesting, Non Timber Forest Products and rural livelihoods in Central Africa, by Ousseynou Ndoeye of CIFOR Central and West Africa;
- The link between biodiversity conservation, livelihoods and food security: the case of sustainable use of bushmeat. IUCN/FAO/Traffic International, by Bihini Won wa Musiti of IUCN.

Sub-theme 2: Armed conflicts and natural resource preservation in Central Africa.

- Parks for Peace initiative in the Great Lakes countries: progress made, by Eulalie Bashige Baliruhya of ICCN;
- Livelihood of indigenous peoples within the backdrop of insecurity in the Great Lakes region, by Kapupu Diwa Mutimanwa of PIDP-Kivu;
- Alternative management of conflicts related to natural resource management around the Dja Reserve in Cameroon, by Patrice Bogombe of FTTP

Sub-theme 3: Managing Central African forest ecosystems in this era of globalisation

- Progress made as concerns certification in countries of the Congo Basin, by Bernard Cassagne of FRM;
- Domesticating indigenous fruit trees and medicinal plants for poverty alleviation in West and Central Africa by Zachée Tchoundjeu of ICRAF Cameroon.

Sub-theme 4: Partnership in Sustainable forest management

- Managing Central African forest ecosystems in this era of globalisation, by Simon Rietbergen of IUCN;
- Partnership for the regional strategic action plan for resources of the environment and biological diversity of the Congo Basin ecosystems, by Martin Zeh-Nlo of UNDP;
- As CARPE moves from learning to doing, by James Graham of CARPE/USAID;

- NEPAD and the Environment, by Moctar Camara of Senegal;
- Sub-regional co-operation between forestry schools to adapt training syllabuses, by Ibrahim Njoya of RIFFEAC.

Besides the presentations, two declarations were made respectively by:

- * The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), through Mrs Ada Ndeso-Atanga of the FAO Regional Office for Africa;
- * The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), through Mr Tabe Tanjong of WWF-CPO.

After listening to the presentations and declarations, participants were divided into four working groups corresponding to each sub-theme.

Alongside, a consultation organised by Ministers on the Rules and Regulations of the CEFDHAC ended up with the following conclusions:

- The CEFDHAC is known to be responsible for animation and organisation of sub-regional, national and its networks' fora;
- Complementarity between the CEFDHAC and COFIMAC was confirmed;
- The IUCN remains the facilitating agency;
- The Facilitating Agency is not part of the organs of the CEFDHAC; its attributions have been redefined;

- Creation of a new organ called Co-ordination whose headquarters shall be in Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo;
- Dissolution of the Council;
- The Current Chair and the Facilitating Agency are charged with analysing operational modalities in between sessions.

The outputs of the working groups had the following recommendations:

- 11- Encourage the implementation of various conventions in the area of the environment and poverty alleviation ratified by Central African countries;
- 12- Strengthen the Parks for Peace Programme by extending it to other protected areas and putting in place a capacity building programme for the military and conservation staff on sustainable management of natural resources during armed conflicts
- 13- Initiate a programme to safeguard the livelihoods of indigenous populations of Central African countries with support from development partners;
- 14- Facilitate the capitalisation of findings of research-development and lessons learnt from field experiences on sustainable forest ecosystem management policies and practices;
- 15- Facilitate the drawing up of a legal framework in order to institutionalise partnerships between the private sector and indigenous and local communities in the management,

exploitation and enhancement of timber and non-timber forest products in CEFDHAC member countries;

- 16- Promote participatory management in CEFDHAC countries, including the drawing up of an appropriate legal framework by these countries, as an approach that make it possible to satisfy both the exigencies of sustainable management of natural resources and poverty alleviation concerns;
- 17- Initiate and facilitate fora at local and national levels for various stakeholders involved in the CEFDHAC;
- 18- Promote the implementation of management initiatives that mainstream innovative approaches (reduced impact logging, certification, code of conduct) and contribute in ensuring sustainable livelihoods for populations (domestication of animal and plant species);
- 19- Finalise the development of project proposals that are amongst the priorities of the SAP and solicit donor support for required funds for the implementation of the SAP;
- 20- Promote responsible practices in wildlife management when drawing up and implementing management plans for forest concessions.

The Conference recommends that donors should support the CEFDHAC and its partners in the implementation of the recommendations of this session.

The Rules and Regulations of the CEFDHAC were unanimously examined and adopted, after amendments.

Following official requests to host future CEFDHAC sessions from member countries, the following timetable was adopted:

- ❖ 5th session, Bangui CAR, 2004;
- ❖ 6th session, Libreville, Gabon, 2006;
- ❖ 7th session, N'djamena, Chad, 2008;
- ❖ 8th session, Sao Tome and Principe, 2010.

Done in Kinshasa, this 12th day of June 2002.

The Conference.