

Partnership proposal presented by the French government

TITLE: FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION IN THE CONGO BASIN

PARTNERS:

~~- Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo~~
~~- Canada, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, ~~France, Germany~~~~

Sponsor of the initiative (complete contact information):

South Africa

Department of Water and Forests – Private Bag X93 – Pretoria 0001 (South Africa)

Contact: Mrs. Linda Mossop

Associated participants (NGOs, local governments, businesses, international bodies, governments, etc.):

National partners:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development – DGCID)

Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development

Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fishing and Rural Affairs [*Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation, de la Pêche et des Affaires Rurales*]

French Development Agency [*Agence Française de Développement (AFD)*], for financing of forest ~~improvement~~
~~management plans~~~~works~~

French Global Environment Fund [*Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)*]

CIRAD-forêt [*Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement – Département forêt*].

French private forest Companies, members of the International Technical Association for Tropical Timber [*Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT)*]

NGOs: ~~/to be specified (Les Amis de la Terre [French arm of Friends of the Earth], Solagral, WWF, UICN, Greenpeace, France Nature Environnement, GRET)~~

International partners:

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) [*Organisation Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (OIBT)*]

African Timber Organization [*Organisation Africaine des Bois*]

International Technical Association for Tropical Timber [*Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT)*]

Inter-African Forest Industries Association (IFIA)

WWF

Wildlife Conservation Society

Global Forest Watch (World Resource Institute)

World Bank

European Commission-~~(DG-Dev)~~

Canada

USA: Department of State - US AID / CARPE

Germany

United Kingdom

Japan

DESCRIPTION:

A summary description and outline of connection with Agenda 21 or the Millennium Declaration:

PRIORITY AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT:

1. Monitoring and evaluation of forest ecosystems

- Information-gathering and management*

Objectives:

- To provide basic information on forest management: the limits of forest concessions, concession-awarding conditions, timetable and type of involvement, monitoring of infractions, data on trade flows, etc.;
- To contribute to better application of forestry regulations;
- To favour the involvement of the civil partnership (NGOs).

□ *Establishment or reinforcement of long-term sample plots for monitoring of harvested forests*

Objectives:

- To improve the body of knowledge on the functioning of forest ecosystems: regeneration, forest dynamics;
- To search for an optimal balance between economic yield and maintaining biodiversity in harvested forests.

2. Reinforcement and creation of protected forest areas

Objectives:

- To create and secure a regional network of protected forest areas;
- To improve the consideration given to biological diversity in the harvested forests in buffer zones and ecological corridors;
- To favour the creation of cross-border protected forest areas.

3. Reinforcement of capacities and training

Objectives:

- To train technicians and workers in forest harvesting (low-impact harvesting) and in wood processing (increasing the yield of the raw material);
- To train agents in the Forest Administration and other administrations involved in the forest products trade (customs);
- To train and raise the awareness of local populations.

4. Participative management, agro-forestry

Objectives:

- To define and implement policies that promote community forestry (Cameroon example);
- To facilitate the participation of local populations in the management of natural forest resources;
- To implement initiatives aimed at conservation and sustainable management of forest resources by local populations (poverty reduction).

5. Establishment of markets for the environmental services offered by the forest

Objectives:

- To enhance the value of biological diversity;
- To increase the revenues for local populations.

6. Sustainable management of harvested forests

Objectives:

- To sustainably manage large and medium forest concessions ;
- To follow up and control of the achievement of the forest management plans.

ESTIMATED TIMETABLE for implementation:

Start: end of 2002

Duration: 5 years

EXPECTED MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

Funding:

United States: US\$ ~~7550~~ million (over 5 years) announced

France: € ~~150~~ million in funding has been identified, and another € 35 million in potential funding is being sought (public and private sectors)

Evaluation process:

Informal oversight committee consisting of partners in the initiative

Supervision to be defined

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