CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF FORESTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA (COMIFAC)

CONVERGENCE PLAN FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

Yaounde, 27 May 2004
COMIFAC Executive Secretariat
# Table of Contents

I- Vision .......................................................................................................................... 3
II- General objective .......................................................................................................... 3
III- Strategic areas of the Convergence Plan ................................................................... 3
IV- Results expected ......................................................................................................... 4
V- Activities planning matrix .......................................................................................... 8

**Strategic area 1 : Harmonisation of forest and taxation policies** .................................. 8
    1.1 International Conventions .................................................................................. 8
    1.2- Harmonisation of forest policies ................................................................... 10
    1.3 Harmonisation of taxation systems .................................................................. 12

**Strategic area 2 : Knowledge of the resource** ............................................................... 13
    2.1- Inventory of forest resources (timber, non timber, medicinal plants and wildlife) ........................................................................................................ 13
    2.2- Strengthening and/or setting up national and regional observatories .......... 14

**Strategic area 3 : Management of ecosystems and reforestation** ............................... 14
    3.1- Forest land development .................................................................................. 14
    3.2 Management of forest concessions and protected areas ............................... 15
    3.3 Regeneration and reforestation ........................................................................ 16
    3.4- Combating desertification ............................................................................. 16

**Strategic area 4 : Biodiversity Conservation** ................................................................. 17
    4.1- Strengthening the network of national protected areas ............................. 17
    4.2- Joint management of transboundary zones and protected areas ............... 18
    4.3 Phyto-genetic resources .................................................................................. 20

**Strategic area 5 : Sustainable valorisation of forest resources** ................................. 20
    5.1 Economic development of the timber, wildlife, NTFPs and tourism sub-sectors .............................................................................................................. 20
    5.2- Monitoring the management and utilisation of resources / control ............ 24
    5.3- Forest certification and traceability ............................................................... 25
    5.4- Combating illegal exploitation and poaching ............................................... 26

**Strategic area 6 : Development of alternative activities and poverty alleviation** ......... 27
    61- Alternatives to poaching .................................................................................... 27
    62- Income-generating micro-projects for the local population ......................... 27

**Strategic area 7 : Capacity building, stakeholder participation, information, training** ............................................................................................................. 28
    7.1- Participation of stakeholders / forums ........................................................... 28
    7.2- Involvement of the local population ............................................................... 28
    7.3 Communication, information, sensitisation, education ................................. 29
    7.4 Vocational and continuous training ................................................................ 30

**Strategic area 8 : Research -Development** .................................................................. 31

**Strategic area 9 : Development of funding mechanisms** ........................................... 33

**Strategic area 10 : Regional cooperation and partnerships** ......................................... 35

VI- APPENDICES : ........................................................................................................... Erreur ! Signet non défini.

**Appendix 1 : Transboundary programmes** ............................................................... Erreur ! Signet non défini.

**Appendix 2 : National programmes** ........................................................................ Erreur ! Signet non défini.
THE CONVERGENCE PLAN: A COMMON VISION

I- VISION
Sustainable and joint management by Central African States of their forest resources for the well-being of their people, the preservation of biodiversity and the protection of the global environment.

II- GENERAL OBJECTIVE
“Sustainable and joint management by Central African States of the forest resources of the sub-region and of a network of protected areas representative of the biodiversity and the ecosystems, for the well-being of the population and to ensure global balance.”

III- STRATEGIC AREAS OF THE CONVERGENCE PLAN

1- HARMONISATION OF FOREST AND TAXATION POLICIES
- Implementation of international agreements and conventions;
- Harmonisation of forest policies;
- Harmonisation of taxation systems.

2- KNOWLEDGE OF THE RESOURCE
- Inventory of forest resources: timber - wildlife - NTFPs / medicinal plants;
- Strengthening and/or setting up national and regional observatories;
- Geo-spatial monitoring of forest resources.

3- MANAGEMENT OF ECOSYSTEMS AND REFORESTATION
- Forest land development;
- Management of forest concessions and protected areas;
- Regeneration and reforestation;
- Combating desertification.

4- BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
- Strengthening the national network of protected areas;
- Joint management of transboundary zones and protected areas;
- Phylogenetic resources.

5- SUSTAINABLE VALORISATION OF FOREST RESOURCES
- Economic development of the timber, wildlife, NTFPs and tourism sub-sectors;
- Monitoring the management and utilisation of forest resources/control;
- Forest certification and traceability;
- Combating illegal exploitation and poaching.

6- DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
- Alternative activities to poaching;
- Income-generating micro-projects for the local population.

7- **CAPACITY BUILDING, STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION, INFORMATION, TRAINING**
- Stakeholder participation / Forums ;
- Involving the population;
- Communication/information/sensitisation ;
- Academic, vocational and continuous training.

8- **RESEARCH - DEVELOPMENT**
- Forest research programmes;  
- Valorisation of traditional knowledge ;  
- Epidemics / zoonotic diseases.

9- **DEVELOPMENT OF FUNDING MECHANISMS**
- National forest funds;  
- Innovative funding mechanisms (Land conversion taxes, the percentage for COMIFAC, debt-for-nature swap etc.);  
- Debt reduction mechanisms - HIPC;  
- Bilateral and multilateral funding sources.

10- **COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS**
- Sub-regional cooperation and development of partnerships (COMIFAC Treaty, Implementation of the Convergence Plan, Forums, etc.);
- Interagency cooperation agreements.

**IV- RESULTS EXPECTED**

1. **HARMONISATION OF FOREST AND TAXATION POLICIES**
- COMIFAC Treaty is ratified by each member State;  
- Important international conventions on forest and biodiversity are ratified by member countries;  
- Each member State has designed a forest sector development programme that fully mainstreams the guidelines and strategies of the sub-regional Convergence Plan;  
- Forest management standards of the different States of the sub-region are compatible;  
- Member States correctly apply common guidelines and criteria on sustainable forest management;  
- The different taxation systems are harmonised and compatible with sustainable forest management requirements;  
- The size of forest concessions is compatible with economic and ecological requirements;  
- Forest concessions are managed in such a manner as to generate economic development activities in the hinterland;  
- A sub-regional strategy to control exploitation, movement of forest products and poaching is designed and implemented;  
- National regulations provide for environmental impact assessment prior to all major projects in the forest.

2- **KNOWLEDGE OF THE RESOURCE**
- Inventory of forest/wildlife/NTFP resources is carried out;
• A sub-regional forest resources database is established;
• A geo-spatial monitoring system and observatories are set up.

3- MANAGEMENT OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS AND REFORESTATION
• A land management plan, including a permanent forest estate, is prepared;
• The permanent forest estate, especially forest concessions and protected areas, is developed;
• Reforestation allows for the restoration of degraded lands, increase in forest cover and accounts for a significant volume of timber production (lumber, firewood, etc.);
• Forest activities contribute to desertification control.

4- BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
• A network of protected areas representative of the biodiversity and ecosystems, including the marine, mangrove and mountain ecosystems of the sub-region, is designed and put in place;
• The phytogenetic resources of the sub-region are protected;
• The transboundary zones of Congo Basin countries are jointly managed.

5- SUSTAINABLE VALORISATION OF FOREST RESOURCES
• Social and economic activities ensuing from the sustainable management of forests contribute to the creation of new jobs and to poverty alleviation;
• Partnership agreements on the control and monitoring of resource utilisation are established and implemented.

Timber sector
• Increase in the number of forest species exploited;
• Local processing of nearly all the timber produced;
• Increase in the number of jobs in the timber processing industry;
• An intra-regional timber market is operational;
• Development of regional and international timber trade.

Wildlife sector
• Greater contribution of wildlife resources to economic growth.

Non-Timber Forest Products sector - NTFPs
• The non-timber forest products and phyto-genetic resources sectors are organised and contribute to the economic development of the neighbouring population.

Tourism sector
• Central African ecosystems underlie the development of tourist activities.

Monitoring and control of the management and use of resources
• Principles, criteria and indicators of sustainable management of forest resources are implemented;
• The traceability of forest and wildlife products coming from the sub-region is guaranteed;
• The local population is sensitised and involved in the monitoring and control of resource exploitation;
• The transboundary movement of forest and wildlife products is monitored and gradually brought under control on the basis of mutually agreed conventions;
• Security at frontiers and peace building within the sub-region are improved upon.
6- DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

- Alternative activities to poaching are implemented;
- Income-generating micro-projects are designed for the local population;
- Resources generated from the forest are fairly distributed and contribute to poverty alleviation among the local population.

7- CAPACITY BUILDING, STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION, INFORMATION, TRAINING

- National and sub-regional consultation forums allow for the effective involvement of all stakeholders;
- Specialised training institutions are networked and admit students from all the countries of the Congo Basin;
- Sub-regional institutions train professionals in the different specialties necessary for the development of forest activities on the basis of updated and harmonised curricula;
- Networks of modular training, retraining and further training of professionals are operational;
- Joint management contracts are established and implemented;
- All players involved in the management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa are organised, hold consultations and uphold an internal code of ethics that is coherent with the guidelines of the Convergence Plan.

8- RESEARCH - DEVELOPMENT

- An applied research programme that mainstreams all the concerns relating to the sustainable management of forests is operational in the sub-region;
- A network of forest information management computer systems is operational in each country and centralised at the level of a COMIFAC-based sub-regional observatory;
- A scientific group operates within COMIFAC.

9- SETTING UP INNOVATIVE FUNDING MECHANISMS

- Each country of the sub-region is endowed with a forest fund;
- The CBFP finances the implementation of the Convergence Plan;
- NEPAD contributes to the funding of the Convergence Plan;
- New funding mechanisms have been studied, adopted and implemented to fund forest resources conservation and management activities: carbon wells, debt-for-nature swap, trust funds, debt reduction programmes, compensations for the prohibition of exploitation of some zones, private foundations, etc.
- Institution of a permanent forest land conversion tax in the countries of the sub-region to supply a sub-regional fund for the reforestation of low tree cover zones.

10- COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

- COMIFAC Treaty is ratified by each member State;
- COMIFAC designs, guides and coordinates the implementation of forest development strategies in the Congo Basin are;
- COMIFAC organs contribute efficiently to the orientation and coordination of the implementation of sub-regional strategies contained in the Convergence Plan;
- Sub-regional and international organisations work in partnership with COMIFAC within the framework of the Convergence Plan and cooperation agreements;
• A framework laying down the ethical rules governing the technical and financial management of projects and programmes jointly financed in the sub-region is established and implemented;
• Partnership agreements between the different parties involved in resource exploitation are established and effectively implemented.
## V- ACTIVITY PLANNING MATRIX

### STRATEGIC AREA 1: HARMONISATION OF FOREST AND TAXATION POLICIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activity</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 111 | Sign and ratify international conventions | Number of conventions signed and ratified | – Sign and ratify the following conventions and agreements:  
  – COMIFAC Treaty  
  – OCFSA and ADIE agreements  
  – Convention on biodiversity  
  – Convention on climate change  
  – Convention on desertification  
  – The RAMSAR Convention on wetlands  
  – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES  
  – International Tropical Timber Agreement  
  – ACP/EU partnership agreement  
  – WTO Agreements  
  – The Initiative on phyto-genetic resources and biosafety | – Availability of agreements and conventions signed  
  – Availability of agreements and conventions ratified |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 112 | Implement the conventions ratified and the agreements signed                                 | Number of national strategies and action plans on biodiversity validated Regulatory instruments mainstream that the provisions of agreements and conventions | - Design and validate a national strategy and a plan of action on biodiversity (NSPA-BD)  
- Design and implement a national environment management programme (NEMP or EAP)  
- Mobilise the funding needed to implement the NEMP or the EAP  
- Implement projects related to the NEPAD initiative  
- Implement the AFLEG, CBFP processes  
- Implement the Genetic resource management and control programme | - Strategy papers available  
- National strategy validated  
- Implementation budget known  
- Implementation of NEPAD programmes for the Congo Basin is in process  
- Implementation of the partnership project is in process  
- Timber exportation from the Congo Basin is in conformity with the regulations in force  
- The genetic resources of the Congo Basin are protected and controlled both as regards intellectual property and production areas. Exploitation is done in line with regulatory instruments adopted for that purpose |                      |
<table>
<thead>
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</table>
| 113 | Assess the implementation of the agreements and conventions ratified at the sub-regional level | Study carried out Detailed report available | – Take stock of the progress made in the implementation of each of the following conventions: biodiversity, climate change, RAMSAR, CITES and NEPAD, AFLEG, CBFP, genetic resources, etc. initiatives at national level  
– Organise a national consultation on the issues regarding the implementation of agreements and conventions and forward the outcome to COMIFAC | Reports on the implementation of agreements and conventions available | |

### 1.2- Harmonisation of forest policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 121 | Take stock and carry out a comparative analysis of national sustainable forest resource management policies, laws, institutions and standards in relation to international conventions | Study carried out Availability of the comparative study report that underscores the pertinent elements for convergence | – Each country forwards to COMIFAC all instruments, regulations, guidelines and other pertinent documents to allow for comparative analysis of national policies  
– Carry out the comparative study | – National instruments and documents available at COMIFAC  
– Guidelines and policy harmonisation components available | |
| 122 | Organise a sub-regional consultation on forest policies and regulations | Sub-regional consultation forum report available | – Mobilise funds  
– Organise the consultation forum | – Funds mobilised  
– Recommendations on policy harmonisation available | |
| 123 | Design and implement national forest development programmes that mainstream the guidelines of the convergence plan | Number of forest sector programmes implemented | – Constitute a national planning team in each country  
– Mobilise the resources needed  
– Make an assessment of the national sector  
– Carry out a national planning exercise  
– Organise a forum to validate the national sector plan | – The planning team is operational  
– Resources mobilised  
– Assessment available  
– The forest sector Programme is available and validated | |
<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
</table>
| 124| Grant special status to technical forest staff in the States of the sub-region (a paramilitary | Suitable forestry personnel status and legal instrument available Number of military | – Prepare and ensure the signing of instruments granting a paramilitary status to forest agents, and adoption of a code of ethics
– Ensure that agents are fully equipped (uniforms, rangers, emblems, weapons, radios, etc)
– Select agents, mobilise finances and organise paramilitary training and/or retraining courses within the national armed forces.  | – Instruments signed and implemented
– Number of complete equipment distributed
– The number of training courses and of agents trained or retrained within the national armed forces |                                                                                   |
|    | staff in the States of the sub-region (a paramilitary status for forestry agents)              | refresher courses / further training                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |                     |
| 125| Prioritise the forest sector just like health and education                                     | Availability of an instrument                                                            | – Draft a regulatory instrument that institutes the forest sector as a national priority sector
– Get the Government and the national assembly to adopt the instrument
– Mobilise and sensitise national and international partners on this issue | – Instrument available
– Instrument adopted at national level
– The WB and the IMF consider the forest sector as a priority sector for the countries |                                                                                   |
| 126| Increase the number of technical staff in the forest sector                                   | Number of agents and staff recruited Lifting the freeze on recruitments into the public | – Carry out a staff census and an exact evaluation of needs
– Adjust the national finance law (budget) in order to finance the recruitment of workers for the forest sector
– Recruit new managerial staff and technicians | – The needs assessment report available
– Amendment of the finance law
– Recruitment of additional staff |                                                                                   |
|    |                                                                                               | forest sector                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                 |                     |
| 127| Take measures conducive to the carrying out of environmental impact assessment prior to the    | Sub-regional guidelines available National laws provide for EIAs in the forest The EIA | – Include in all regulatory instruments provisions imposing EIAs for all major projects
– Enforce the instruments on EIAs
– Set up mechanisms to evaluate and follow-up the implementation of EIAs | – Instruments adopted
– Mechanisms operational |                                                                                   |
<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Draw up and implement forest management and intervention guidelines and standards compatible with the specificities of the different States of the sub-region</td>
<td>Availability of an instrument containing proposals on sub-regional standards and guidelines Number of national instruments updated and adopted that mainstream sub-regional guidelines</td>
<td>– Update and adopt national forest management guidelines and standards in accordance with sub-regional guidelines</td>
<td>– Instruments updated, adopted and implemented in each country of the sub-region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1.3 Harmonisation of taxation systems**

| 131 | Take stock of adjustments of forest taxation in Central Africa in relation to sustainable management of forests and decentralisation of taxation | Availability of reports proposing a regional approach to the harmonisation of taxation systems Proposed mechanisms for the decentralisation of the taxation system | – Each country provides COMIFAC with complete information on national forest taxation systems – Organise consultation between the different stakeholders on forest taxation | – Report available – National instrument adjusting the taxation system to sub-regional guidelines |  |

| 132 | Strengthen forest revenue collection and enhancement systems | Proposals of collection systems made | – Make an analysis of the obstacles to the good performance of current taxation instruments and propose reforms towards improving tax collection | – Economic and tax audit report available – Percentage increase of forest revenue – A revenue enhancement system operational |  |
# STRATEGIC AREA 2: KNOWLEDGE OF THE RESOURCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>211</td>
<td>Continue inventory of the following: Forest Wildlife NTFPs Medicinal plants</td>
<td>Forest inventory report available Resource database available at sub-regional level Existence of a programme to train forest inventory specialists</td>
<td>− Take stock of the progress of inventories in each country − Prepare the inventory planning map − Mobilise finances and draw up practical plans /work plans − Carry out training and retraining of inventory officers − Continue the inventory of forest and wildlife resources in collaboration with WRI and the FAO</td>
<td>− Report available − Planning map available − Funding agreements signed − Number of staff trained − Inventory reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>212</td>
<td>Prepare a report on the exploitation of NTFPs</td>
<td>Report available</td>
<td>− Take stock of qualitative and quantitative information on the products, their use, the pressures and impacts of exploitation − Finance national surveys on the state of non-timber products − Carry out studies on the uses, pressures and impacts of exploitation of the commonest non-timber forest products − Draw a national map showing the distributing zones of non-timber forest products</td>
<td>− Reports available − Inventory reports available − Report of study available − Map showing NTFP distributing zones available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213</td>
<td>Carry out an inventory of wildlife resources in protected areas and forest concessions</td>
<td>Inventory reports and maps available</td>
<td>− Prepare an inventory planning map − Make an inventory of wildlife in each country − Compile information into a national database − Centralise information at the level of the COMIFAC database</td>
<td>− Map available − Inventory data available per zone − National data base updated − Networking with the sub-regional observatory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2.2- Strengthening and/or setting up national and regional observatories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
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</table>
| 221 | Set up observatories and put in place a geo-spatial monitoring system | A regional observatory is set up and operational | – Set up national databases such as SIGIF that are extended to cover other resources  
– Set up a national observatory  
– Regularly provide information to the sub-regional network of SIGIFs managed by the observatory  
– Set up and/or strengthen forest mapping/remote sensing units | – Data base available at SIGIF, SIF  
– Observatory functional  
– Connexion to the sub-regional forests observatory network  
– Mapping unit operational |  |

### STRATEGIC AREA 3: MANAGEMENT OF ECOSYSTEMS AND REFORESTATION

#### 3.1- Forest land development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
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<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 311 | Speed up the drafting and adoption of forest land development plans in each country | Number of forest land development plans available | – Empower a structure to design a forest exploitation planning framework  
– Identify all stakeholders involved in the planning of land use  
– Organise a consultation forum for stakeholders  
– Gather all information needed for planning  
– Make additional inventories  
– Define an indicative land use framework (zoning plan) | – Structure in charge selected  
– Stakeholders identified  
– Consultation report available  
– Necessary information gathered and reports available  
– Zoning plan available |  |
| 312 | Secure the areas delineated for different uses in the forest land development plan including pygmy lands | The boundaries of multi-purpose zones are defined and acknowledged  
The boundaries of pygmy lands are defined and secured | – Sensitise the general public and the local population on the procedure to legalise a forest land development plan  
– Negotiate the final boundaries of permanent forests with the population  
– Demarcate permanent and community forests on the field  
– Draw a map showing the limits of pygmy and village lands | – Zoning instrument enacted  
– Report of negotiations with the population available  
– Instruments classifying permanent forests signed  
– Demarcation of permanent forests on the field  
– Limits of pygmy and village lands |  |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 321 | Formulate and put in place official standards for the design, approval and monitoring of the implementation of management plans | Standards and plans available | – Prepare an initial draft of official standards for the design, approval and monitoring of the implementation of management plans in each country  
– Organise a national validation workshop with local partners  
– Prepare and ensure the enactment of an implementing instrument for the new standards  
– Set up a unit to monitor the implementation of management plans | – Draft official standards document available  
– Document validated  
– Implementing instrument signed  
– Unit set up and operational | |
| 322 | Take regulatory measures that allow for the setting up, within government services and forest concession holders, of a powerful structure in charge of forest management | Instrument amended Number of structures created and staffed with forest managers | – Prepare a decree that requires all exploiters to use the services of forest managers and then get it approved and signed.  
– Include the obligation to recruit forest managers as one of the conditions to tender for forest concessions | – Instrument signed  
– Basic model of specifications modified  
– Forest management specialists recruited | |
| 323 | Ensure that permanent forest estates and all other types of forests have management plans at national level | The areas are exploited on the basis of management plans | – Design management plans for forest concessions and protected areas  
– Design management plans for other types of forests | Number of management plans approved by the States | |
| 324 | Design plans for the management of mountain zones | Number of operational management plans | – Identify priority action mountain zones  
– Design management plans for each specific zone | – Priority zones identified  
– Maps available  
– Management plans available | |
### 3.3 Regeneration and reforestation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>331</td>
<td>Increase forest cover and timber production through reforestation and prohibition of exploitation of degraded zones</td>
<td>Surface area reforested&lt;br&gt;Production of firewood and timber from planted forests&lt;br&gt;Size of the deferred area&lt;br&gt;Number of instruments enacted in the sub-region</td>
<td>– Take stock of the situation of artificial reforestation&lt;br&gt;– Organise a national consultation on reforestation&lt;br&gt;– Draw up a national reforestation strategy in each country&lt;br&gt;– Introduce reforestation incentive measures (lumber, firewood, timber, etc.)&lt;br&gt;– Establish participatory reforestation partnerships involving the population and all public and private sector actors&lt;br&gt;– Develop mechanisms to fight bush fires</td>
<td>– Assessment of current situation available&lt;br&gt;– Report of consultation available&lt;br&gt;– National reforestation strategy document available&lt;br&gt;– Decree to promote incentive measures signed and implemented&lt;br&gt;– Number and importance of participatory reforestation partnerships implemented&lt;br&gt;– Number of areas reforested and secured</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 3.4 Desertification control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>341</td>
<td>Develop forest operations to combat desertification in ecologically sensitive areas</td>
<td>Surface areas regenerated&lt;br&gt;Prohibit exploitation of degraded zones</td>
<td>– Draw a map of ecologically sensitive zones&lt;br&gt;– Identify forest operations for combating the effects of desertification, drought and other natural disasters in ecologically sensitive zones&lt;br&gt;– Promote integrated agro-forestry reforestation techniques in the management of agricultural, silvicultural and pastoral lands</td>
<td>– Maps available&lt;br&gt;– Identification and implementation of desertification control operations&lt;br&gt;– Agro-forestry promotion programmes under execution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### STRATEGIC AREA 4: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
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<th>National activities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>411</td>
<td>Establish a global framework for planning biodiversity conservation zones in Central Africa</td>
<td>An eco-regional map is adopted and updated A zoning map is adopted????</td>
<td>– Use the findings of the study on the identification of sensitive areas (IUCN)</td>
<td>– Synthetic document available</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>– Identify and map out ecologically sensitive zones</td>
<td>– Studies and maps available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>– Compare national sensitive areas with those retained on the eco-regions map (WWF)</td>
<td>– Analytic document available</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>– Supplement the eco-regions map (WWF) by enriching it with data from the different countries, if need be</td>
<td>– Map completed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>412</td>
<td>Set up a network of protected areas representative of the ecosystems and biodiversity at sub-regional level</td>
<td>Protected areas account for 10% of the surface area of the different countries National protected areas coincide with the critical sites identified</td>
<td>– Identify protected areas</td>
<td>– A national plan for the classification of protected areas designed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>– Define the qualitative and quantitative objectives of classification at national level</td>
<td>– Classification procedures initiated in each country</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>– Carry out classification</td>
<td>– Number of classification instruments signed</td>
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<td>– Document instituting RAPAC signed by the different States</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>– RAPAC is operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>413</td>
<td>Ensure the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems, mangroves and wetlands, endangered species and water resources</td>
<td>A special status for such zones and a programme to monitor and protect them</td>
<td>– Identify and map out zones with marine, coastal, mangrove and humid ecosystems as well as endangered species and their habitat</td>
<td>– Number of operations/projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>– Strengthen the regulations on the protection of such ecosystems and species</td>
<td>– A water resource protection programme prepared and implemented</td>
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<td></td>
<td>– Design and implement protection projects and programmes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>– Adopt measures towards the conservation of water basins and hydrographical networks</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>– Mainstream forest concerns in the integrated water resource management plans</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>N°</td>
<td>Sub-regional convergent activity</td>
<td>Performance indicator</td>
<td>National activities</td>
<td>Intermediate indicators /results</td>
<td>Cost in million CFAF</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 421 | Prepare a framework agreement for the joint management of transboundary protected areas        | An instrument for the joint management of transboundary protected areas is signed      | - Prepare terms of reference (constraints of the States under this agreement)  
- Mobilise financial resources, call for bids, select consultants and sign contracts  
- Distribute the working document  
- Put together the comments of the different States  
- Organise a conference of Ministers to get them sign the framework agreement  
- Involve all stakeholders | - Terms of reference available  
- Resources available and contract signed with consultants  
- The consultant’s report is available and disseminated  
- Document containing the comments of the different States  
- Agreement signed  
- Number of stakeholders involved  
- Reports of consultation meetings available |                                                                                     |
| 422 | Speed up the creation of transboundary protected areas                                         | Number of transboundary protected areas classified and endowed with a management plan | - Identify opportunities for the creation of transboundary protected areas  
- Give priority to the classification of potential transboundary protected areas  
- Set up transboundary protected areas between the States (see the transboundary programme appended hereto)  
- Sign agreements relating to the management of new transboundary protected areas  
- Start the process of preparation of management plans for transboundary protected areas  
- Create buffer zones around transboundary protected areas and establish community hunting zones therein | - Number of potential transboundary protected areas identified  
- Number of classification instruments of transboundary protected areas signed  
- Number of transboundary protected areas set up  
- Number of agreements on the management of transboundary protected areas signed  
- Number of management plans finalised and of plans still being prepared  
- The necessary instruments are adopted and published |                                                                                     |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 423| Sign cooperation agreements for the managements of transboundary protected areas                    | Agreements signed                                 | – Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic TNS  
– Cameroon, Gabon, Congo TRIDOM  
– Prepare agreements for the different transboundary zones                                                                                           | – Agreement signed by the Ministers                                                                                     | 423 |
| 424| Establish standards for the development, management and control of transboundary zones (production forests and protected areas) | Document available and harmonised                 | – Prepare terms of reference  
– Mobilise financial resources, call for bids, select consultants and sign contracts  
– Organise a sub-regional validation workshop  
– Prepare management plans for protected areas                                                                                           | – Terms of reference available  
– Resources available and contracts signed  
– The sub-regional workshop organised and document adopted  
– Number of management plans prepared and validated                                                                 | 424 |
| 425| Step up the fight against transboundary poaching                                                  | A plan to combat transboundary poaching is established | – Design national anti-poaching plans  
– Prepare terms of reference  
– Mobilise financial resources, call for bids, select consultants and sign contracts  
– Organise a sub-regional validation workshop  
– Adhere to international anti-poaching initiatives (MIKE, etc)  
– Strengthen anti-poaching laws  
– Strengthen collaboration with customs services, air and sea transport companies and forestry companies | – Document available  
– Terms of reference available  
– Resources available and contracts signed  
– Sub-regional workshop organised and a sub-regional anti-poaching plan adopted  
– Membership documents available  
– The necessary instruments are adopted and published  
– Partnership document available (partnership with the private sector and transport and customs services) | 425 |
| 426| Facilitate control in transboundary zones (timber resources, poaching)                            | Evaluation of the quantities of timber, trophies and animals seized at the frontiers | – Institute a common law dispensatory system to control transboundary zones  
– Organise swooping operations at the borders  
– Allocate radio frequencies for the management of the Sangha tri-national                                                                 | – The necessary instruments are adopted and published  
– Number of swooping operations organised and reports available  
– Radio frequencies are allocated                                                                                                                      | 426 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 427 | Prepare a project to purchase communication equipment for TNS TRIDOM protected areas and others | Communication equipment available at TNS TRIDOM and others                                                                                                                                                                 | – Prepare terms of reference  
– Mobilise financial resources, call for bids, select the consultant and sign the contract  
– Launch a call for tenders, select the best bidder, purchase the equipment                                                                                   | – Terms of reference available  
– Resources mobilised and contracts signed  
– Equipment purchased                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 427                                                                 |

4.3 Phyto-genetic resources

| 431 | Draw up a sub-regional strategy for identifying, valorising and protecting phyto-genetic resources | Strategy drawn up and adopted                                                                                                                                                                                           | – Initiate and implement national programmes on phyto-genetic resources research  
– Strengthen legislation on the management, exploitation and marketing of phyto-genetic resources  
– Set up protection (patents) and royalties sharing mechanisms                                                                 | – Data bank available  
– Instruments adopted  
– Patents registered                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                 |

STRATEGIC AREA 5: SUSTAINABLE VALORISATION OF FOREST RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>511</td>
<td>Spatio-temporal planning of the allocation of the different forest resources exploitation permits</td>
<td>Planning document available and accompanied with maps</td>
<td>Plan the different forest permits to be allotted to the different economic operators</td>
<td>Planning document available and accompanied with maps</td>
<td>511</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.1 Economic development of the timber, wildlife, NTFPs and tourism sub-sectors

511- Resource allocation

511

| 511 | Spatio-temporal planning of the allocation of the different forest resources exploitation permits | Planning document available and accompanied with maps                                                                                                    | Plan the different forest permits to be allotted to the different economic operators                                                                                                                                  | Planning document available and accompanied with maps                                                                                               | 511 |

20
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5112 | Promote transparency and competition in the allocation of the various forest resource exploitation permits | Transparency mechanism known and put in practice | – Study official permit award procedures and mechanisms and propose necessary adjustments to improve transparency  
– Organise a national workshop to validate proposals on the improvement of permit award procedures and mechanisms  
– Prepare and ensure the signing of implementing instruments  
– Implement the new procedures and mechanisms adopted  
– Institute an independent mechanism to supervise both the procedures for issuing permits and the exploitation of forest resources | – Report available  
– Procedures and mechanisms validated  
– Instruments signed  
– Implementation report | |

### 5.1.2 Timber sub-sector

| 5121 | Prepare and adopt national industrialisation plans | National industrialisation plans drawn up and adopted | – Design a national timber-sector industrialisation policy  
– Draw up an industrialisation master plan  
– Organise an African timber week involving all development partners | – Industrialisation policy available  
– An industrialisation master plan is prepared  
– Timber week organised | |
| 5122 | Promote more advanced timber processing and the use of advanced technologies | The strategy paper is available | – Take measures to encourage timber salvage by forest companies  
– Provide incentives for local production of goods with high added value  
– Encourage the importation and/or building of efficient timber machinery  
– Promote SMEs and SMIs in the different processing sub-sectors | – Increased level of processing of raw materials  
– Incentive measures published  
– Number of SMEs/SMIs set up and developed  
– Increased economic importance of the sub-sector  
– Number of secondary and tertiary processing plants set up | |
| 5123 | Establish a sub-regional market for timber and other forest products | An intra-regional timber market is operational via the Internet Volumes marketed using the new channels | – Initiate consultation on the development of a sub-regional timber market (CEMAC, ATO, ITTO, IFIA, ATIBT, national trade unions, etc. and States)  
– Put in place specialised regional, sub-regional and international market systems for timber and other forest products | – Report containing the proposals of the sub-regional forum  
– Specialised market systems operational | |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>№</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5124</td>
<td>Encourage the adoption of codes of ethics for all the major sectors and forest activities that are compatible with sustainable forest management principles</td>
<td>Compatible codes of ethics and evaluation reports available Promote processing</td>
<td>Ensure the respect of codes of ethics</td>
<td>Codes of ethics implemented</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5.1.3 Wildlife sub-sector

| 5131 | Increase the contribution of the wildlife sub-sector to the economic and social development of the sub-region | Increased economic significance of the wildlife sector | – take stock of the situation of wildlife in the different States  
– Study the wildlife taxation system and implement incentive tax measures  
– Draw up a strategy to mainstream the wildlife sector into national economies  
– Provide support for the organisation of professional bodies working in the area of wildlife  
– Secure hunting zones by strengthening regulations governing them  
– Update, strengthen and harmonise regulations on wildlife conservation and management  
– Harmonise taxation, customs and wildlife regulations in order to facilitate the development of the sub-sector | – Reports available  
– Incentive tax measures implemented  
– Strategies drawn up |                        |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5141 | Organise the different NTFP sub-sectors | NTFP management and marketing strategy available | – Sensitise the population and leaders about the importance of the sub-sector and about NTFP sustainable exploitation techniques  
– Prepare and/or strengthen current legislation on access to, harvesting and marketing of NTFPs  
– Design and implement standards relating to the harvesting, conservation and use of NTFPs  
– Implement an incentive tax system for the development of NTFPs  
– Organise consultation on NTFPs  
– Put in place a national NTFP management strategy  
– Promote sustainable community NTFP harvesting and management operations  
– Promote initiatives towards the regeneration and development of NTFPs | – Number of sensitisation and training seminars organised  
– Laws and instruments on NTFPs available  
– Standards available  
– An incentive tax system in place  
– Percentage of the economic contribution of NTFPs  
– Report available  
– National strategy on NTFPs available  
– Number of efficient professional organisations | 5141 |
| 5142 | Design appropriate strategies to develop major NTFP sub-sectors | Strategy documents for main NTFP sub-sectors available | – Organise a national forum on the measures necessary to develop NTFP sub-sectors  
– Put in place a national strategy for the sustainable as well as social and economic development of NTFPs | – Forum report available  
– National strategy paper available | 5142 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5151</td>
<td>Promote the development of eco-tourism activities</td>
<td>Repertoire of the eco-tourism sites of the sub-region available</td>
<td>Sensitise the public and partners about the importance of the eco-tourism sector to the countries of the Congo Basin</td>
<td>– Repertoire available and published</td>
<td>– Number of partnerships established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number of eco-tourism initiatives implemented</td>
<td>Produce a repertoire of the major eco-tourism and hunting sites</td>
<td>– Number of managerial staff and professionals trained</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number of tourists visiting the sites each year</td>
<td>Identify and develop the capacity of national governments and professionals to manage tourism sub-sectors</td>
<td>– Number of tourists visiting the sites in the country each year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Economic significance of the eco-tourism sector</td>
<td>Develop national tourist infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5.1.5 Tourism sub-sector</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>521</td>
<td>Streamline all forest exploitation permits</td>
<td>The repertoire and the database relating to valid permits are available</td>
<td>Prepare a repertoire of all forest resource exploitation permits</td>
<td>– Repertoire and data base available and hooked-up to the sub-regional network</td>
<td>– Number of partnerships established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Provide COMIFAC sub-regional forest observatory with updated data on valid permits</td>
<td>– Data updated and available at the level of the sub-regional observatory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2- Monitoring the management and utilisation of resources / control</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>522</td>
<td>Adopt a sub-regional convention on forest control</td>
<td>Convention document adopted and implemented by all the parties</td>
<td>Contribute to the preparation of a draft sub-regional convention on forest control</td>
<td>– Preparatory document available</td>
<td>– Number of partnerships established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Participate in the sub-regional consultation forum</td>
<td>– Convention document available and validated by the experts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Get the parties to approve the draft convention</td>
<td>– Convention signed by the Ministers and the stakeholders</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>N°</td>
<td>Sub-regional convergent activity</td>
<td>Performance indicator</td>
<td>National activities</td>
<td>Intermediate indicators /results</td>
<td>Cost in million CFAF</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 523 | Equip frontier forest control structures with communication means (radio, telephone) and operational logistics | Number/list of equipment available and operational | – Take stock of the equipment situation at the national level, assess needs and purchase equipment  
– Review and assess resource exploitation control initiatives  
– Set up control structures and ensure that they are efficient | – Situation and needs assessment report  
– Equipment handed to control structures and operational  
– Budget allocated and used |  |

### 5.3- Forest certification and traceability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 531 | Promote the forest certification process | Number of concessions equipped with a management plan and certified | – Design and implement forest certification principles, criteria and indicators  
– Envisage, as part of the national forum, a multiparty commission specialised in the promotion of the forest certification process  
– Train forest auditors at the level of the sub-region and swear them into their functions | – Commission is operational  
– PCI designed and implemented |  |
| 532 | Carry out PCI tests in the different countries and ecological zones of the sub-region (ATO and CIFOR) | Test report for each country available | – Identify one or several pilot forests for the tests  
– Sign a convention between the forest exploiter and ATO/CIFOR  
– Implement the PCI testing process | – Identification report  
– Convention signed  
– Test report available |  |
| 533 | Implement the same traceability system at country and sub-regional levels | Study report available | – Propose a single traceability system for all timber exports from the Congo Basin  
– Organise a national consultation workshop for the validation of the traceability system  
– Sign system implementing instruments  
– Set up a structure to manage the traceability monitoring process | – Study report available  
– Traceability system validated by the stakeholders of the sector  
– Regulatory instruments signed and implemented  
– Management system operational |  |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators/results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>541</td>
<td>Gather national statistics relating to poaching and illegal exploitation of forest resources</td>
<td>Data bank operational</td>
<td>Put in place a system for gathering, processing and disseminating information about poaching and illegal exploitation of forest resources</td>
<td>Periodic reports on national statistics available</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 542 | Adoption by each country of a national plan to combat poaching and illegal exploitation of forest resources | National action plans adopted and implemented | – Draw up a national plan to combat poaching and illegal exploitation of forest resources  
– Organise a national workshop to validate the proposals contained in the plan to combat poaching and illegal exploitation of forest resources  
– Prepare and ensure the signing of the necessary implementing instruments  
– Render the mechanism operational | – Document validated  
– Instruments signed  
– Report available | 6.5 |
## STRATEGIC AREA 6: DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Alternatives to poaching</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 611| Promote the consumption of animal proteins other than bush meat | Increase in the share of animal proteins other than bush meat | – Develop game husbandry activities  
– Encourage domestic husbandry  
– Develop rural fish-farming  
– Facilitate the supply of forest zones with animal proteins other than bush meat | – Number of operational animal farms and fish ponds  
– Social and economic development activities promoted by all forest sector stakeholders, especially husbandry activities  
– Forest companies obligatorily institute alternative systems of supply of meat and other essential goods to their exploitation and processing sites |                      |
| 6.2| Income-generating micro-projects for the local population |                       |                     |                                  |                      |
| 621| Promote the development of both income-generating and job-creating activities in forest zones | Number of initiatives implemented  
Number of jobs created  
Economic importance of revenue generated | – Include the obligation to support local development in the terms of reference of companies  
– Encourage the private forest sector to facilitate job creation around production sites  
– Establish partnership between the private sector, NGOs and the local people | – Instruments available  
– Number of jobs  
– Partnership agreements established  
– Number of activities initiated |                      |
| 622| Promote social forestry involving local communities | Volume of forest products marketed through social forestry initiatives | – Organise neighbouring communities to jointly manage their natural resources  
– Put in place a regulatory framework and incentive measures  
– Support the organisation and development of handicrafts  
– Build the capacity of social forestry stakeholders | – An incentive regulatory framework drawn up and adopted  
– Number of initiatives operational  
– Economic significance of handicrafts and village activities |                      |
### STRATEGIC AREA 7: CAPACITY BUILDING, STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION, INFORMATION, TRAINING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 623 | Lay down modalities for the fair distribution of the revenue from the exploitation of forest resources destined for the local population | Instrument adopted in each member State | – Prepare and adopt an instrument in each member State  
– Put in place a mechanism to cede a share of the revenue from the exploitation of forest and wildlife resources to the local population | – Instruments available  
– Mechanism to cede share of forest revenue operational | |

#### 7.1- Participation of stakeholders / forums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 711 | Participatory definition of the rights and obligations of the different forest sector stakeholders /code of ethics | Sub-regional code of ethics adopted by all the stakeholders (The 4Rs - right, responsibility, revenue, relation) | – Identify all forest management stakeholders  
– Prepare instruments that allow for the involvement of the different players in sustainable forest management  
– Adopt a code of ethics that defines the 4Rs : Right, Responsibility, Revenue and Relation (between the stakeholders) | – All players are identified  
– Instruments available  
– Code of ethics adopted | |
| 712 | Set up consultation mechanisms between all stakeholders at all levels | National forums are operational | Set up a national advisory forum on forests and render it operational in each member State | National forums are functional | |

#### 7.2- Involvement of local and indigenous peoples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N°</th>
<th>Sub-regional convergent activity</th>
<th>Performance indicator</th>
<th>National activities</th>
<th>Intermediate indicators /results</th>
<th>Cost in million CFAF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 721 | Design and adopt a sub-regional strategy to involve the local population and the civil society in resource management | Sub-regional strategy paper adopted by COMIFAC | – Participate in the sub-regional initiative that aims to define the components of the strategy to involve the local population and the civil society  
– Implement the sub-regional strategy to involve the local population | – Sub-regional forum report available  
– The components of the sub-regional strategy are defined  
– High Proportion of the local population and civil society involved in the management of resources | |
| N°  | Sub-regional convergent activity                                                                 | Performance indicator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | National activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Intermediate indicators /results                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Cost in million CFAF |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 722 | Use resources from States and donors to support NGOs in their efforts to sensitise, inform and organise the population into local development/management associations with management committees | Resources are made available                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | – Identify and describe national and international NGOs working with the population in the environment sector (with projects under execution)  
– Prepare a mutually agreed work plan for popular sensitisation and education consonant with the specifications  
– Organise a forum for consultation with national and international NGOs and validation of the « specifications » document  
– Individual negotiations between NGOs and donors and/or the Government for the funding and execution of field projects  
– Set up an organ to coordinate and control project execution | – Identification and assessment report available  
– Basic document available  
– The specifications documents adopted  
– Number of conventions signed and funded  
– Coordination and control organ operational |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 723 | Enhance the capacities of managers of local and community initiatives                          | Number of persons trained                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | – Design appropriate training modules  
– Organise training sessions in different zones and with different target groups | – Training modules prepared  
– Reports on the execution and follow-up of training sessions |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

### 7.3 Communication, information, sensitisation, education

| N°  | Create efficient and decentralised systems of dissemination of information on instruments governing the forest sector | Media plan available  
Level of implementation of the media plan | – Prepare a media plan to disseminate information about the instruments in force  
– Develop appropriate communication tools depending on the targets of the media plan  
– Implement the media plan at country and sub-regional levels | – Media plan available  
– Implementation report | |
| 731 | Draw up and implement a communication strategy                                              | Communication strategy available | – Draw up a communication strategy  
– Develop appropriate communication tools  
– Implement the strategy at country and sub-regional levels | – Communication improved  
– Communication tools available | |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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| 741 | Harmonise forest and environment sector training programmes in the training institutions of the sub-region | Training programmes tailored to, and respected in the institutions of the sub-region | ✅ Carry out a programme review  
✅ Harmonise and adapt them  
✅ Update training programmes with emphasis on sub-regional aspects  
✅ Assess the needs and profile of the professionals to be trained in the institutions | Review of programmes initiated                                                                                                                  | 741                                                                                           |
| 742 | Make the training institutions of the sub-region specialise in the different domains of forestry (timber industry, wildlife management, forest management techniques, social forestry, conservation, environment, low-impact exploitation, etc.) | Each training institution is specialised in a given domain defined or strengthened by COMIFAC (Council of Ministers) | ✅ Take stock of the current situation of the training institutions of the sub-region so as to identify the domains for specialisation  
✅ Organise a sub-regional consultation forum to discuss the specialisation proposals of institutions in order to avoid duplication  
✅ Implement the decisions of the council of Ministers relating to the areas of specialisation of the different institutions | – Report on the current situation and on specialisation proposals  
– Recommendations of the sub-regional forum  
– Reports on the implementation of the decisions of COMIFAC council of Ministers | 742                                                                                           |
| 743 | Strengthening specialised training institutions to make them more efficient                       | Number of professionals trained and recruited                                           | ✅ Promote the active participation of the private sector in the funding and execution of training programmes  
✅ Promote partnerships and twinning between south-south and north-south specialised institutions | Number of operational partnerships established                                                                                               | 743                                                                                           |
| 744 | Adopt a sub-regional continuous training strategy involving all stakeholders                     | Strategy adopted and implemented by COMIFAC                                           | ✅ Carry out a national evaluation of the demand for continuous professional training  
✅ Develop specialised modules  
✅ Implement the strategies through existing training institutions | – Evaluation reports available  
– Modules operational  
– Strategies implemented                                                                                                           | 744                                                                                           |
**STRATEGIC AREA 8: RESEARCH - DEVELOPMENT**

<table>
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<tr>
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</table>
| 81 | Develop research programmes that are coherent with forest policies | A sub-regional scientific committee set up Programmes implemented Report on the current research situation | • Take stock of the current situation of forest research; mainstream the findings of other national scientific committees in the work of the national forest scientific committee  
• Set up and render operational a national scientific committee bringing together researchers and stakeholders in other domains | • Report on the current situation available  
• Programme documents prepared | |
| 82 | Establish partnerships between research, the different users and specialised institutions | Number of partnerships established | • Identify the needs  
• Strengthen sub-regional cooperation in research  
• Promote south-south and north-south partnerships between institutions and other forest players  
• Set up networks | • Needs and support strategy identified  
• Number of operational partnerships  
• Networks operational | |
| 83 | Develop techniques suited for the harvesting, regeneration, use and processing of NTFPs/medicinal plants | Techniques developed and disseminated to the population and the private sector | Design sector by sector and product by product research projects to meet the needs of the private sector and local population | Projects implemented | |
| 84 | Valorise traditional knowledge relating to conservation and use of natural resources | Volume of financial spin-offs deriving from the commercialisation of knowledge | • Identify traditional knowledge and compile it into a database system centralised by COMIFAC  
• Strengthen legislation on the use of traditional knowledge by third parties for commercial purposes | • Data bank operational  
• Regulatory provisions adopted | |
<table>
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| 85 | Create a consultation forum and design warning mechanisms for zoonotic diseases | The incidence of zoonotic diseases is controlled and/or limited in human beings and apes | – Identify the zones, reservoirs, transmission mechanisms and impact of the Ebola virus and other zoonotic diseases in each country concerned and at the level of the entire Congo Basin  
– Establish permanent collaboration between foresters, wildlife specialists, research and public health services and specialised institutions  
– Define national and common actions to be carried out to limit the spread of the disease  
– Ensure epidemiological monitoring of both human beings and animals  
– Promote a vast programme of sensitisation, information, education and training of the population and forest sector actors | – Study of risk areas carried out  
– Inventory of wildlife made  
– Evolution maps drawn  
– Disease transmission and development mechanisms identified and controlled  
– National and sub-regional strategies defined within the framework of a multi-sector planning workshop  
– Implementation of strategies in process at country and sub-regional levels by States and partners  
– Services responsible for carrying out epidemiological monitoring put in place and operational  
– Sensitisation/information on major public media (national radio station, local radio, Africa n° 1, TV5 etc)  
– Sensitisation and education campaigns in schools and churches with the production and distribution of popularisation brochures |
### STRATEGIC AREA 9: DEVELOPMENT OF FUNDING MECHANISMS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Support the setting up of forest funds in all the States</td>
<td>Each State has an operational forest fund</td>
<td>Put in place or revamp national forest funds</td>
<td>Forest funds operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Set up a sub-regional “basket fund”</td>
<td>Feasibility studies carried out&lt;br&gt;Fund set up and operational&lt;br&gt;Funding modalities proposed</td>
<td>– Participate in defining fund statutes and operational modalities&lt;br&gt;– Amend national legislation to facilitate the creation of sub-regional funds&lt;br&gt;– Plan national budgets and provide the initial allocation for the fund&lt;br&gt;– Prepare the documents of projects to be supported by the funds</td>
<td>– Sub-regional fund created and operational&lt;br&gt;– Number of executed projects financed by the sub-regional fund</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>Set aside a percentage of the revenue deriving from the exploitation of forest and wildlife resources for the funding of the convergence plan</td>
<td>Percentage determined</td>
<td>– Carry out a feasibility study (see CEMAC and ECCAS experience)&lt;br&gt;– Amend national legislation to ease implementation mechanisms</td>
<td>– Report of the study available&lt;br&gt;– Implementation mechanism operational</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>Foster partnership with the private sector to promote international trade in forest products from Central Africa</td>
<td>Partnership agreements established&lt;br&gt;Financial contribution of the private sector secured</td>
<td>– Sensitise professional groups&lt;br&gt;– Design a contribution mechanism</td>
<td>– Partnership contract signed and implemented</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Encourage the setting up of trust funds at country and sub-regional levels</td>
<td>Number of trust funds created</td>
<td>– Amend national legislation to allow for the creation and use of trust funds&lt;br&gt;– Mobilise resources and sign the necessary conventions&lt;br&gt;– Prepare the documents of projects to be funded with the trust funds</td>
<td>– Necessary instruments adopted and published&lt;br&gt;– Finances mobilised for the trust funds&lt;br&gt;– Project documents available and submitted for funding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>
| 96 | Develop innovative funding mechanisms (Carbon wells, Kyoto protocol, trust funds, swapping of HIPC debts, etc.) | Number of innovative funding initiatives undertaken                                     | – Inform and sensitise the different partners about the innovative mechanisms  
– Prepare and implement programmes to be funded                                                                 | – Number of programmes prepared                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                |
| 97 | Institute taxes for forest lands exclusively allocated to other uses                           | A percentage of the conversion tax collected is set aside to finance a COMIFAC fund for the restoration of forest cover | Institute a forest land conversion tax in national regulations; use COMIFAC resources to finance national forest and wildlife regeneration actions in collaboration with the State and the relevant stakeholders | – Instruments adopted and implemented  
– Taxes collected and paid back to the COMIFAC regional fund                                                                 |                                                                                                                                |
| 98 | Establish partnership with sub-regional projects and programmes to support coordination of the activities of the convergence plan | A partnership contract is signed                                                       | – Inform and sensitise key players  
– Provide COMIFAC with pertinent information about projects and programmes  
– Collaborate with COMIFAC Executive Secretariat                                                                 | Effective contribution of projects and programmes to coordination                                                                 |                                                                                                                                |
## STRATEGIC AREA 10: REGIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

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</table>
| 101| Establish collaboration and partnership mechanisms with all initiatives and cooperation bodies concerned with the sustainable management of forest ecosystems | Number of partnership agreements and conventions established and implemented | – Implement partnership agreements at national level  
– Develop specific partnerships at national level | – Conventions implemented at national level  
– Number of new partnership conventions established | |
| 102| Jointly define and implement ethical rules governing the technical and financial management of projects and programmes co-financed in the sub-region | Code of ethics adopted by the stakeholders and applied in the formulation and implementation of projects | – Contribute to the production of the code of ethics  
– Cause the parties to implement the code of ethics | – Code of ethics available and applied in the different countries  
– Countries and the parties scrupulously respect the code of ethics in the execution of projects and programmes | |
| 103| Cause the players involved in the management of the forest ecosystems of the Congo Basin to organise themselves and to respect an internal code of deontology coherent with the guidelines of the convergence Plan | A network of NGOs and stakeholders is operational  
A code of deontology is adopted and respected | – Facilitate the organisation of a national network of NGOs  
– Cause the code of deontology to be validated | – National networks are organised and functional  
– The code of deontology is respected | |