



CONGO BASIN CLIMATE COMMISSION

OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE CONGO BASIN BLUE FUND

SECOND MEETING OF THE REGIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE CONGO BASIN BLUE FUND

Brazzaville, from 31 July to 01 August 2018

REPORT

1. From 31 July to 01 August, 2018 was held at Hotel Ledger Plaza Maya-Maya in Brazzaville, the 2nd Meeting of the Regional ad hoc Committee of the Congo Basin Blue Fund.
2. The overall objective of the meeting was to relaunch the recruitment process of a consulting firm to conduct a prefiguration study of the Congo Basin Blue Fund, after the cancellation of the initial process for procedural reasons.
3. To this end, the following specific objectives were developed :
 - informing expert on the status of the recruitment process of the technical consulting firm;
 - reviewing and validating the new Terms of Reference ;

- reviewing and validating tender evaluation criteria, in line with UN rules.
4. The 2nd meeting was organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of the Republic of the Congo, Technical Coordinator of the Congo Basin Climate Commission, with support of the Climate Change Competence Centre (4C) of Morocco and the United Nations Development programme (UNDP) Morocco.
 5. The Congo Basin Blue Fund focal points of the following countries attended the meeting: Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco, Uganda, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe and Chad.
 6. Also in attendance were experts from the African Union Commission, ECCAS Secretariat General, Climate Change Competence Centre (4C) of Morocco, Executive Secretariat of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and the following sub-regional and national organisations: Conference on Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC), *Réseau des Objectifs de Développement Durable d'Afrique Centrale de la société civile* (Central Africa Civil society Network on SDGs) (RODD-AC), *Réseau des Communicateurs pour l'Environnement et l'Information en Afrique Centrale* (RECEIAC).
 7. The following technical and financial partners were represented: UNDP Congo, UNDP Morocco and the *Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable* (IFDD).
 8. The meeting also benefited from the presence of Ambassador Hussein Alfa NAFO, Special Adviser of His Excellency **Ibrahim BOUBACAR KEITA**, President of the Republic of Mali, as a resource person and former African Group chief negotiator.
 9. The opening ceremony was marked by two speeches: the speech by M. **ANTHONY OHEMENG-BOAMAH**, UNDP Congo **Resident Representative**, UN system Coordinator; and the speech by Ms. **Arlette SOUDAN-NONAUT**, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Technical Coordinator of the Congo Basin Climate Commission.

10. In his opening remark, Mr. **Anthony OHEMENG-BOAMAH**, stressed the commitment of Parties to the Conventions, notably the Convention on Climate Change, to contribute to the management of the global environment, and emphasized that the Congo Basin Blue Fund supports the promotion of a paradigm shift towards a balanced and sustainable development. In addition, he highlighted that the Congo Basin remains a geographical area of great global interest, thanks to its natural resources and aquatic and forest ecosystems. Finally, while expressing his gratitude for being convened to participate in the opening ceremony of the second Meeting of the Regional ad hoc Committee of the Congo Basin Blue Fund, the UNDP Resident Representative in Congo recognized that a step forward was taken since the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Congo Basin Climate Commission, and led to the signing of the protocol establishing the aforementioned Commission. Thereafter, he wished full success to the deliberations of the meeting.
11. Taking the floor to address the meeting, **Ms. Arlette SOUDAN-NONAUT**, on behalf of His Excellency **Denis SASSOU NGUESSO**, President of the Republic of the Congo, Head of State, Chairperson of the Congo Basin Climate Commission, firstly expressed her appreciation to participants for responding to the invitation and then welcomed those you came from abroad. She recalled the genesis of the establishment by African Heads of State and Government of the three Commissions dedicated to combating climate change, following the Action Summit held on 16 November 2016 in Marrakech (Morocco) on the margins of COP 22, at the behest of His Majesty **MOHAMMED VI**, King of Morocco.
12. The Minister, then, outlined the different steps made in the operationalization process of the Congo Basin Blue Fund, starting with its creation announced in Marrakech, Morocco, on the margins of COP22 by His Excellency **Denis SASSOU NGUESSO**, president of the Republic of the Congo, Head of State.
13. Before declaring the 2nd Meeting of the Regional Ad Hoc Committee of the Congo Basin Blue Fund open, she informed the participants about the reason for convening the meeting, after the cancellation of the initial recruitment process of a consulting firm in charge of conducting a prefiguration study of the Congo Basin Blue Fund.

14. The opening ceremony was followed by the screening of a film on the Congo Basin Blue Fund and a presentation on the generalities of the Fund, as well as key dates in its operationalization process.

15. The Bureau of the meeting was constituted as follows:

Chairperson: Republic of the Congo

Rapporteur: African Union

Secretary: COMIFAC

Moderator: CEEAC

16. Following the establishment of the Bureau, Madam Minister reported the state of progress in the recruitment process of the consulting firm, and the reasons for the cancellation of tender initially launched by UNDP Morocco. Thereafter, the agenda was adopted with amendments, followed by the examination of the two main items on the agenda:

- Updating the Terms of Reference validated during the last meeting of the Regional Ad hoc Committee, to take into account the current context and define new orientations for the recruitment of one or two consulting firm(s) to conduct a prefiguration study of the Congo Basin Blue Fund;
- Updating the evaluation grid in accordance with the United Nations System rules. This point was preceded by a presentation on UNDP procurement standard evaluation criteria by Ms. Patricia DIEGO, UNDP-DRC procurement specialist.

17. Concerning the Terms of Reference, they have been carefully examined by the meeting; and amendments were made to take account of the current context: the need to enhance the expertise of nationals of countries of the Congo Basin Climate Commission, and to meet the objectives of the Congo Basin.

The meeting suggested to split the study into two sections:

- Section 1 : Investment Plan
- Section 2: Financial Vehicle

The terms of reference were adopted with amendments.

18. As regards the tender evaluation grid, it was examined and adopted in light of UNDP procurement standard evaluation criteria.

In addition, UNDP was urged to finalize the tender document, taking into consideration the amendments made in the terms of reference and the evaluation grid.

19. The meeting made the following recommendations:

- Formalizing the Regional Ad Hoc Committee ;
- Involving, at all stages of the recruitment process of a consulting firm, representatives of the Congo Basin Climate Commission and 4C as well as representatives of Sub-regional organizations (ECCAS, COMIFAC, EAC).

20. At the conclusion of the meeting, delegates expressed their appreciation to the Government and People of Congo for the hospitality accorded to the participants and for their support.

21. In addition, they commended, on the one hand, Ms. Arlette SOUDAN-NONAUULT, Minister of Tourism and Environment of the Republic of the Congo, Technical Coordinator of the Congo Basin Climate Commission, and on the other hand, UNDP Morocco for the successful organization of the meeting.

22. The closing ceremony was marked by the reading of the report of the meeting and the speech by Ms. **Arlette SOUDAN-NONAUULT**, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Technical Coordinator of the Congo Basin Climate Commission.

Done at Brazzaville, 01 August 2018

Participants

ANNEX: List of participants

- Mr. NGOMIN Anicet, Head of Forest Regeneration, Reforestation and Extension monitoring Unit at the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (Cameroon) ;
- Mr. PEDRO Samuel, Coordinator of the Environmental Sector Support Project (Angola) ;
- Mr. KAYIRANGA Damascène, Water resources management Specialist (Rwanda) ;
- Mr. KOULARAMBAYE Julien, Director General for the Environment, Blue Fund Focal Point (Chad) ;
- Mr. KONZI SARAMBO Bob Félicien, Blue Fund Focal Point (CAR);
- Mr. BYAENE TUBONGYE Arsène Blue Fund Focal Point (DRC);
- Mr. EBANG NFONO Gaspar Lutero Mangué Representative of the Climate Focal Point (Equatorial Guinea) ;
- Mr. DE CEITA VAZ DO ROSARIO Manuel Fernandes, Blue Fund Focal Point (Sao Tome) ;
- Mr. MUGUMA Xavier NYINDO, (Uganda) ;
- PELLA Irma Séraphine, Blue Fund Focal Point (Congo)
- Mr. BOUDZEKRI Razi, Blue Fund Focal Point (Morocco) ;
- Mr. FIRADI Rachid, Representative of 4C Morocco ;
- Mr. BENABDALLAOUI Yassir (UNDP Morocco) ;
- Ms. DIEGO Patricia (UNDP DRC);
- Ms. LEAH MABEL WANAMBWA NAESS, African Union Representative;

- Mr. Hussein Alfa NAFO, Special Adviser of the President of the Republic of Mali ;
- Ms. ONOTIANG Florantine Mapeine, Legal expert at COMIFAC ;
- Professor BITONDO Dieudonné, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat for Environmental Assessment in Central Africa (SEAAC), representing the president of the Conference on Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC).
- Mr. TABUNA Honoré, Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) ;
- Mr. Jean-Pierre NDOUTOUM, Director of the Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable (IFDD) ;
- Mr. Jean Pierre Rufins MACKITA, Point Focal - ODD-AC ;
- Mr. Raoul SEMENI, RECEIAC ;
- Mr. Joseph OSSIBI, Prime Minister's Adviser on Water, Forestry and Environmental Matters.
- Mr. Jean Félix Lumière ISSANG, UNDP-CONGO Environmental Adviser;
- Ms. Patricia KEKOLO, Procurement Assistant, UNDP-CONGO.