



**XV WORLD
FORESTRY CONGRESS**

Side event OFAC
World Forestry Congress

The state of the Congo Basin forests: Unleashing the power of regional data and information



Date and time:
May 3, 5.30 PM to 7 PM



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In November 2010, OFAC became a specialized unit of the Executive Secretariat of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), a regional organization comprising ten Member States, which aims to promote regional coordination and cooperation on forest governance, conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources. The move to institutionalize OFAC within COMIFAC has facilitated more exchanges between Member States, strengthened national coordinators' capacities to gather data, and made OFAC's data crucial for monitoring and evaluation systems.

In 2022, one of the two flagship publications of the Central African Forest Observatory (OFAC) will be released: The State of Central Africa's Forests. The other one, The State of Central Africa's Protected Areas, released in 2021. Therefore, the side event "The state of the Congo Basin forests: Unleashing the power of regional data and

information" will be used as a platform to present and discuss the main findings of the publication on The State of Central Africa's Forests, particularly related to these pressing issues:

- The forests of Central Africa: Current state of the resources and their management (land use and land cover change, trends in the timber sector, challenges for forest plantations).
- The forests of Central Africa in international debates (international financial flows, implementation of REDD+ projects, contributions to the SDGs).
- Challenges and emerging issues on the management of Central Africa's forests (forest fires in Central Africa, peatlands and conservation, forest ecosystems and zoonotic diseases)



The event will not only offer a platform to present these publications, but will also offer a space for reflecting on the importance of regional-level information and data, and how OFAC's publications and tools have facilitated exchanges and cooperation between COMIFAC Member States, strengthened national capacities to gather data, and produced crucial information for regional monitoring and evaluation systems.

Moderator:



Leona Liu
Deputy Director,
Resilient Landscapes
CIFOR-ICRAF

Speakers:



Philippe Mayaux,
Team leader Biodiversity
and Ecosystem services
at DEVCO (European
Commission)



Hervé Maidou
Executive Secretary
COMIFAC



Verina Ingram
Associate Professor
Wageningen
University & Research



Richard Eba'a
Regional Convenor
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