



Citizen
Voices 4
Change

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Congo Basin Forest
Monitoring Project



Regional Conference ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ILLEGAL LOGGING IN THE CONGO BASIN

THIS CONFERENCE WILL

Build trust and relationships between law enforcement and NGOs involved in combating illegal logging/forest crime.

Strengthen the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in preventing and combating forest crime.

Develop joint strategies to combat forest-related crime and other related offenses.

Promote national and transnational collaboration between the various stakeholders.

14-16 NOVEMBER 2017 • YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON
INTERPOL REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CENTRAL AFRICA

Introduction

The Congo Basin Forest Monitoring project – Citizen Voices for Change is collaborating with the Interpol Regional office for Central Africa to deliver a regional workshop on law enforcement and illegal logging in the Congo Basin.

The main objective of the Citizen Voices for Change project is to strengthen the contribution of non-state actors (civil society, indigenous peoples & community organisations) to improve forest governance, sustainable forest management and the contribution of forest to development in the Congo Basin. The project is implemented by the Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT), University of Wolverhampton (United Kingdom) and a number of international, regional and national partners¹. The project is funded by the European Union.

This conference is the first of its kind bringing together law enforcement authorities and non-state actors in the Congo Basin. The conference will run from the 14th – 16th November, 2017 at the Interpol Regional Office for Central Africa in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The conference will be implemented as part of the Interpol Regional Office for Central Africa's annual activities.

Rationale and Aim

An empowered civil society, including indigenous peoples and local communities, with the capacity to access and analyse information, to monitor forest governance including forest land use policies, to advocate and to hold governments accountable are key to improve forest and land governance. It is central to the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) processes. As forest and land use policies are susceptible to corruption, ensuring transparency and accountability linked to FLEGT and REDD+ implementation is key to the credibility and viability of both processes. As both REDD+ and FLEGT implementation makes progress on the ground there is an increasing acknowledgement of the need for open, transparent systems and processes and the ability of civil society and stakeholders (including e.g. right holders, farmers, the private sector and academics) to effectively engage in these processes. The conference seeks to contribute towards the achievement of these processes.

The aim is therefore to bring together law enforcement authorities and civil society so that they can share information on their different roles, explore mechanisms for exchange of information and build mutual collaboration and trust in their efforts to improve forest governance and fight against illegal logging and trade.

Participants and Target Audience

The conference brings together over 50 participants from law enforcement officials and a cross section of national and international civil society and research organisations involved in the fight against illegal logging from West and Central Africa.

Venue

The conference will take place in Yaoundé, Cameroon: Conference Hall - INTERPOL Regional Office for Central Africa.

A reception, registration and information desk will be opened on the 14th November 2017 at 08.00. In order to facilitate security checks, delegates are requested to bring their photographic identity documents.

Conference Language

The conference will be conducted in French and English. Arrangements will be made for simultaneous interpretation in these two languages and a simplified interpretation in Spanish for the delegates of Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe.

Transport and Accommodation

The costs of transport, accommodation and subsistence for government participants are borne by the respective Governments and Organizations. The University of Wolverhampton, CIDT through the Congo Basin Forest Monitoring Project – Citizen Voices for Change, will support two participants (one from forest control, customs, etc and one member from CSOs in the 5 project countries i.e. Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of Congo).

Document and Information for sharing

Space has been allocated for Participants who would like to share/distribute documents during the conference.

Sponsors

European Union through CV4C project
<http://www.cidt.org.uk/cv4c>

INTERPOL through LEAF Project
<https://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Environmental-crime/Projects/Project-Leaf>

FOR MORE INFORMATION visit www.cidt.org.uk/cv4c or contact:

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1. Brainforest, Gabon ; CAGDF - Cercle d'appui à la gestion durable des forêts, Republic of Congo ; CED - Centre pour l'environnement et le développement, Cameroon ; CIEDD - Centre pour l'information environnementale et le développement durable, Central African Republic ; FODER - Forêts et développement rural, Cameroon ; FLAG - Field Legality Advisory Group, Cameroon ; OGF - Observatoire de la Gouvernance Forestière, DRC; WRI - World Resources Institute, USA.