

Lessons learnt from the Congo Basin

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The Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa (OFAC)

OFAC data levels

- OFAC aims at providing up-to-date and relevant information on the forests and ecosystems of Central Africa, which is used by governments and forest and environmental management actors in their decision-making.
- OFAC monitors changes on the forestry and environment sectors of the Congo Basin at three levels
 - Regional level
 - National level in member countries
 - Site level (timber concessions and protected areas)

OFAC Themes

- Institutional arrangements, including institutional changes in member countries, donor support and regional level actors (COMIFAC, ECCAS)
- Trends in forest cover both at regional and national levels
- Timber production: mainly management of forest concessions
- Management of protected areas
 - OFAC has established links with other data collection processes such as FRA of FAO
 - For the last year OFAC has been following up the implementation of the Glasgow Declarations about the Congo Basin



RIOFAC Themes



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Trends in forest cover
both at regional and national levels



Timber production:
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Management of protected areas

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OFAC as « information broker »

A Better
connection
to decision
making



Lessons learnt (1): need for multiple level coordination

- Institutional coordination amongst land use sectors within the national (agriculture, forestry & conservation, mining, infrastructure...)
- Spatial Coordination of activities at the national, landscape and local levels
- Coordination between technical and financial partners
- Coordination between countries of central Africa
- Coordination between the donor community and governments of central Africa countries



Lessons learnt (2): need for knowledge management systems

- Improving the knowledge of the complex forest ecosystems of central Africa through applied and innovative research.
- Encouraging decision making on forest management that is based on scientific evidence
- Document successful experiences and practices of forest ecosystem management
- Make available credible information for use in forest management



Lessons learnt (3): Need to include the informal sectors

- Some informal sectors have more important impacts on natural resources than the formal one
- Subsistence agriculture
- Wildlife exploitation for human nutrition
- Need for specific periodic studies to fill data gaps



Thank you

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