

Table of contents

- 8 Preface**
by Mr. Hervé Martial Maidou, Executive Secretary of the Central African Forest Commission COMIFAC.
- 10 Megabiodiversity**
Kevin Njabo from Cameroon, Africa Director at the Center for Tropical Research at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), describes the magnificent megabiodiversity in the Congo Basin rainforest and the functions of animals and plants in the forest ecosystem.
- 30 Benefits of ecosystem services**
Professor Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary of the African Forest Forum, explains the great importance of the life-supporting ecosystems of the Congo Basin rainforest for the welfare, health and well-being of the people living in Africa and for the global community.
- 36 'Certification is the future of the industry'**
In Gabon history may be written. All forest concessions have to be managed in a sustainable way according to the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Extensive interview with Professor Lee White, Minister of Water, Forests, Seas, Environment and Climate Strategy of the Republic of Gabon.
- 52 FSC certification enables forestry companies to increase productivity**
Interview with Nathalie Bouville, Regional Communications Manager of FSC Africa. How can FSC Congo Basin facilitate and support forest concession holders, forest communities and national governments in central Africa? How is an independent, third-party FSC certification set up? Q's and A's.
- 56 FSC-certified forest management: keeping forests and bettering lives**
Logging according to standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) means this takes place with respect for the forest and the rights of the local population. Eyewitness report from the concession of timber producer IFO in the north of the Republic of Congo.
- 84 Diversification of timber harvests is vital for sustainable forest management**
In the Congo Basin Rainforest hundreds of timber species grow. Overexploitation of much wanted species may cause them to slowly disappear. There are many lesser known timber species which can serve the industry too. By Frank Luijckx.
- 88 Working legally makes artisanal loggers strong Taking control Part 1**
In the Democratic Republic of Congo a transition from illegal small scale logging to legal logging is expanding. Both loggers and the state benefit. Interview with Alphonse Maindo, Director of Tropenbos DR Congo.
- 92 Emancipation of forest communities is important for forest conservation Taking control Part 2**
If people living in the forest would be empowered and enabled to develop a sustainable way of life without poverty, chances to keep the forest standing and to conserve biodiversity would increase. Alphonse Maindo, Director of Tropenbos DR Congo explains.
- 98 Building capacity in West and Central Africa for sustainable timber supply chains**
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is working with major timber-purchasing companies in China and tropical producers and traders on the development of green supply chains. By Gerhard Dieterle, ITTO's Executive Director.
- 102 In pursuit of legality and sustainable conduct in forest lands China – UK International Forest Investment and Trade (InFIT) programme**
Since 2014 China and the UK have been working together in their joint International Forest Investment and Trade ("InFIT") programme to address potential negative impacts arising from China's growing demand for forest products and other commodities and to fight illegality in timber trade. By Dr. Junzuo Zhang.
- 110 China-Africa dialogue pushes sustainable forestry**
The positive impact of the China-Africa Forest Governance Platform. Interview with Dr. Jin Jiaman, Executive Director of the Global Environmental Institute (GEI) in China.
- 116 Sustainability overseas is in the interest of Chinese timber companies China – UK International Forest Investment and Trade (InFIT) programme**
The China Responsible Forest Products Trade and Investment Alliance (China RFA) supports Chinese timber companies in sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin and in building a sustainable supply chain of responsibly sourced forest products. Professor Xu Bin, Secretary-General of China RFA tells how.
- 122 Good land use decisions can help protect Central African forests**
The Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) supports reform processes and investments on the ground in sectors that drive forest loss. Berta Pesti explains.
- 128 Preconditions for responsible production of agro commodities in the Congo Basin**
Preconditions for ecologically sound and social inclusive production of palm oil, natural rubber and other agro commodities in the Congo Basin. By Dr. Louis Defo of Proforest in Cameroon.
- 134 Guidance for Sustainable Natural Rubber China – UK International Forest Investment and Trade (InFIT) programme**
China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters (CCCIMC) has led the development of a comprehensive risk-based Guidance for Sustainable Natural Rubber.
- 136 Switching from slash and burn to sedentary farming**
Slash and burn practices of small farmers are the largest cause of deforestation in DR Congo. At the border of Salonga National Park, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) assists farmers to switch to sedentary farming and save the forest. Eyewitness report.
- 142 Tree domestication spares forests and increases farmer income**
Domestication of valuable wild fruit and nut trees, has resulted in significant improvements in incomes, diets and in rural business development in the Congo Basin. By Zac Tchoundjeu and Bertin Takoutsing of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).
- 146 Analog forestry enriches the soil**
Grassroot organisation CENDEP in Cameroon successfully trains small farmers in analog forestry, a chemical-free way of growing crops which restores ecosystem services and contributes to resilience against climate change.
- 152 Securing women's rights is essential for forest preservation**
Interview with Cécile Ndjebet, president of the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF), about the division of roles between men and women, the existing dominance of men over women, why this should change and how this could be achieved.
- 158 Keepers of the forest**
Indigenous forest peoples can play an important role in forest protection in the Congo Basin and in safeguarding life-supporting forest ecosystem services. By Samuel Nnah Ndohe.
- 164 Charcoal plantations and efficient cook stoves reduce deforestation**
Near Virunga National Park in DR Congo, tree plantations producing charcoal for cooking and efficient cook stoves are important solutions to reduce deforestation and pull people out of poverty at the same time. Interview with Thierry Lusenge, WWF DRC's programme manager Sustainable energy in Goma.
- 172 Responsible Cobalt Initiative wants to improve the lives of artisanal miners China – UK International Forest Investment and Trade (InFIT) programme**
If the initiative succeeds, it may set an example for artisanal mining in the Congo Basin. Interview with Mr. Sun Lihui, chairman of the Responsible Cobalt Initiative and director of the China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters (CCCIMC).
- 180 How to halt illegal wildlife trade**
Illegal wildlife trade is a huge threat to biodiversity, to forest communities and to the national economies of countries in the Congo Basin. How does it work and what can be done to halt it? Alain Bernard Ononino, Head of Policy of the Central Africa Wildlife Crime Programme at World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) tells.
- 190 Intelligence is a force multiplier**
By Olivia Swaak-Goldman, Executive Director of the Wildlife Justice Commission. Transnational criminal networks are a major factor in illegal wildlife trade. The application of intelligence analysis and advanced investigative techniques are crucial to effectively disrupt these.
- 194 Gorilla tourism in Moukalaba-Doudou**
In the Moukalaba-Doudou national park in the southwest of Gabon, a small ngo called PROGRAM offers tours to tourists to see gorillas, forest elephants and other wildlife. Ecotourism from which nature conservation and local communities benefit. Eyewitness report.
- 206 The need for smart road planning**
Large-scale infrastructure projects, if not planned well, pose a huge threat to important wildlife habitats, protected areas, and environmental services. By William F. Laurance, Mahmoud I. Mahmoud and Fritz Kleinschroth.
- 214 Acknowledgements**
- 216 Disclaimers**