



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



**SIDE EVENT
COP26**

Co-creating solutions together with natural tropical forests: the Republic of Congo and private timber sector



Tuesday, 9 November 2021 from 10h00 to 11h30 GMT

COMIFAC Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP26

Glasgow (Scotland)

Context

The event will be an opportunity to demonstrate the synergy between the Congolese state and private sector (FSC-certified timber industry) aimed at effectively maintaining a forest area whose inhabitants and biodiversity are sensitive to climate change. A proven management model which provides responsibly produced timber products for the local and international wood markets. A wide range of co-products are further delivered, i.e. equitable employment, fighting poverty, access to essential quality services (healthcare, drinking water, housing, electricity, schools, etc.) for thousands of employees and their families in one of the most landlocked areas of Congo as well as carbon absorption, biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation on a global scale.

INTERHOLCO – Side event COP26

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This synergistic action, which contributes directly to Agenda2030 and the UN SDGs, can only continue to stimulate economic growth, diversify the economy through responsible timber production and ensure forest protection, providing increased support for good governance and climate investments is secured, through both REDD+ and CAFI as well as private investors.

Objective

To show-case best in class public-private-partnership in tropical forestry in the Republic of Congo.

The event will explore Congo's strategic vision and collaboration with the private sector, particularly FSC-certified forestry companies, in implementing the protection of its forests through responsibly produced wood products, i.e. natural habitats and ecosystems on which our climate, air, water, health and life on this planet depend, thereby contributing directly to **Nature (COP26 priority area 4)**, also seeking to mobilise **Expertise and Funding (priority area 5)** to support climate change **Adaptation and Resilience (priority area 1)**.

Expected outcomes

Strengthening the synergy between relevant stakeholders in the Republic of Congo (Congoese state, private timber sector and international stakeholders in responsible forestry).

- Presenting a best-in-class model which can be replicated in other natural tropical forests in Africa, Latin America or South-East Asia.
- Encouraging private investors and donors to consider the Republic of Congo as a partner of choice in terms of climate adaptation and resilience, in relation to the commitments made by the Congoese State at the international level as well as through the voluntary carbon credit markets.
- Bringing to the attention of investors (private and public) and donors the full range of solutions provided by responsible forest management, on the Environmental, Social and Governance level.
- Raising awareness amongst investors and donors of the benefits of the synergy between the State and the FSC-certified timber sector, including in terms of contribution to the United Nations SDGs.

Format

The side event is configured as a high-level event (hybrid/Zoom and in person).

The event will comprise individual interventions followed by moderated panel discussions and questions and answers and also include a screening of an abridged version of the 'Protecting the Gorilla Forest' film, an ARTE documentary that won Germany's nature film prize.

Annex I Side Event Programme

10h00	Networking Coffee @ the COMIFAC Pavilion
10h30	
10h30	Opening of the Side Event, Start of online meeting
10h33	Mr. Olman Serrano , ATIBT President
10h33	Introductory remarks
10h36	Dr. Christian Ruck , Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, PFBC
10h36	Film 'Protect the gorilla forest' (2 minutes)
10h38	
	Individual interventions (5 minutes each)
	Moderator: Mr. Olman Serrano , ATIBT President
10h40	H.E. Rosalie Matondo , Minister of Forests, Republic of Congo, MEF
10h45	Dr. Christian Ruck , Facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, CBFP
10h50	Mr. Ulrich Grauert , CEO, Interholco
	Responsibly produced wood in the Republic of Congo – caring for climate and beyond
10h55	Mr. Georges Claver Boundzanga , National REDD coordinator, Republic of Congo
	REDD+ in the Republic of Congo: Nature-based solutions and sustainable financing of climate change adaptation and resilience programmes
11h00	Mr. Oscar Crohn , Partner, Solstra Capital
	An investor's point of view on natural tropical forests
11h05	Open Discussion and Q&A session
	Moderator: Mr. Olman Serrano , ATIBT President
11h25	Wrap-up and Closing remarks
	Mr. Olman Serrano , ATIBT President