



FONDATION
POUR LE
TRI-NATIONAL
DE LA
SANGHA



café
General
Assembly

12 - 16 Sept 2022 | Douala, Cameroon

“Blended financing, strategies and contributions for Protected Areas in Africa”.

FINAL REPORT



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Introduction

The Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund (FTNS) under the auspices of the African Consortium of Funds for the Environment (CAFÉ) organized the 12th CAFÉ General Assembly from September 12 to 16, 2022. This event, which was held in Cameroon's economic capital, Douala under the theme "Blended finance, strategies and contributions for protected areas in Africa", mobilized 19 trust funds from across Africa, and partner organizations around the world. The first two days were devoted to a Capacity Building workshop for CAFÉ members and partners present on how to harness blended finance in the conservation of protected areas. This presentation was done by two experts from FINAFRIQUE. Worthy of note, was the presence of the Pan-African Commercial Bank, ECOBANK which gave a presentation on the bank and its activities and investment opportunities in public securities markets in Central Africa (CEMAC) and West Africa (ECOWAS). The third day of the workshop was the official opening ceremony of the 12th CAFÉ Gen-

eral Assembly. It was chaired by the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife representing the Minister. During this 3rd day, partners such as REDLAC and KfW gave presentations on their activities and collaboration with CAFÉ. Coordinators of the Bridge project also presented the initiative. Overall, it was also an opportunity for Trust Funds to exchange note and share experiences. Day 4 unfolded in two parts. The first part of the day was devoted to a presentation by AFACT (Pan-African Fund for the Conservation of Biodiversity) and the second was reserved for the closed session of general assembly for CAFÉ members only. The fifth and last day of the 12th CAFÉ General Assembly was reserved for field activities, wherein, members visited the Mouanko Chimpanzee Sanctuary in the Littoral region.

The 12th CAFÉ General Assembly took place over five days (from September 12 to 16, 2022). The main activities carried out during the GA are presented by day.

Events of the General Assembly



The 12th CAFE General Assembly took place over five days (from September 12 to 16, 2022). The main activities carried out during the GA are presented by day.

Day 01 | Training Workshop on Blended Finances

The 12th CAFÉ General Assembly opened on September 12, 2022. The workshop began at 8:50 a.m. with the opening remarks of the Executive Director of FTNS Dr Zognou Théophile. Subsequently, CAFE President Ms. Karen Price took the floor to unfold the overall agenda of the workshop. A total of 27 people from 17 countries took part in the workshop.

2.1.1 Highlights of presentation

The first session of the workshop was on general knowledge, definitions, main steps and key issues of Blended Finance. Here, the facilitators presented the origin of Blended finance, a concept which was developed between 2010 and 2015, to unlock commercial finance for the sustainable development goals.

Definition of Blended Finance

Three definitions of Blended Finance were presented. According to the OECD, Blended Finance is “the strategic use of development finance for the mobilization of additional finance towards sustainable development in Developing Countries”. The focus here lies on the mobilization of commercial finance, towards development related investments, in a catalytic way, consequently reducing the risks for investors.

- **Market size:** Blended Finance has enabled the mobilization of \$170 billion of capital in favour of sustainable development.
- **Target Regions** include Sub Saharan Africa (47%), Latin America, South Asia. It emerged that Sub Sharan Africa is a critical region to drive blended finance to help developing countries
- **Mechanisms of Blended Finance:** These include
 - a. Investment grants
 - b. Technical Assistance
 - c. Loan guarantees
 - d. Structured Financing

- **Principles of Blended Finance:**
 - a. Anchor blended finance use to a development rationale.
 - b. Design blended finance to increase the mobilization of commercial finance.
 - c. Tailor blended finance to local context.
 - d. Focus on effective partnering for blended finance.
 - e. Monitor blended finance for transparency and results.
- **How to harmonize blended finance and sustainable development?**
 1. Identify the project, i.e., objective, cost, stakeholders, schedule.
 2. Determine the sustainable development objectives to be achieved.
 3. Apply the five principles of blended finance.
 4. Establish the blended finance structure.
 5. Execute, monitor and measure.
- **Stakeholders of Blended Finance**
 - Investors (public or private)
 - intermediaries (experts, cabinets, NGOs, etc) The intermediary defines the mechanism through which the funding will be carried out
 - Projects (helps to identify the other stakeholders)
 -
- **Difficulties related to blended finance in developing countries include :**
 - Political instability; Bad governance; Weak institutions; Mainly informal economy; Lack of capital markets; Absence of telecommunications infrastructure; Currency mechanism through which the funding will be carried out
 - Projects (helps to identify the other stakeholders)

Question and answer session

At the end of the presentation, several questions were addressed to the consultants, particularly on stakeholders of blended finance, examples of blended finance in Africa, the difference between blended finance and Public-Private Partnership, the implementation of blended finance in the case of transboundary projects, amongst others. To each question, answers were provided to enhance the understanding of the participants.



Day 02 | Training Workshop on Blended Finances

The 2nd day of the CAFE General Assembly, was a continuation of the capacity building workshop. 4 workshops marked the day. These were: a brief review of the previous day's concepts, practical case studies and a presentation by Ecobank on investment opportunities on the public securities markets (CEMAC and ECOWAS)

2.2.1 Capacity Building workshop, review of previous day's concepts

2.2.1.1 Quiz

The facilitators revisited the concepts presented during the sessions of the previous day with a quiz for participants. The objective was to assess the participants' understanding of the concepts presented on Day 1. The questions were as follows: What is blended finance? What are the principal challenges of blended finance? What is private capital? What is a concessional loan? What are the principles of blended finance? What are the principles of blended finance? What are the mechanisms of blended finance? Which SDGs are most financed by blended finance?

2.2.1.2 Case study

At the end of the quiz, the facilitators presented an organigram representing the interactions between the various stakeholders of the blended finance mechanism

Figure 3 : Presentation by FinAfrique consultants

2 case studies were presented to participants, (Financing of Lom Pangar Dam in Cameroon, and a Reafforestation project in a city in any of the CAFÉ countries) It was proposed that participants work in teams on case studies, but the assembly opted to work on the case studies in plenary.

Participants then brainstormed on the case study of a project to protect gorillas in the TNS landscape.

Table 1 : Proposed project on protection of gorillas for case study

Project	Project for protection of gorillas in the TNS landscape within the framework of Ecotourism promotion
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of luxury lodges • Ecotourism (training of ecoguards, gorilla habituation) • Involvement of local communities • Rehabilitation of access roads (roads, landing strips)
Investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel Group (40%) • Park Organisation (25%) • State/councils (10%)
Intermediaires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecotourism expert • Hotel group • Cabinet d'études (impact, finance, feasibility studies, etc.)
Mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel group • Development Institutions ; • States (own funds) • Development Banks (Concessionnal grants)

2.2.1.3 Question-and-answer Session on Lom Pangar case study

Question: Why should Trust Funds be interested in the Lom Pangar Dam project? There is no ecosystem-services component in the project.

Answer: The activities of collecting firewood for energy (cooking, lighting, etc.) by local populations, comes at a significant cost to ecosystems and biodiversity. The production of electricity can thus be a means of reducing the impact on the forest through the supply of energy to local populations. An example of this type of project is developed in the DRC in the Virunga National Park.

Indeed, the populations who lived around this park exerted very strong pressure on the resources of the protected area (collection of firewood, etc.). A hydroelectric dam was thus built to provide alternative energy to firewood to the populations. It should however be noted that the presence of electricity can have perverse effects, particularly, an increase in the number of people.

Question: The Lom Pangar project is a good one, but from the point of Conservation Trust Funds the impact could be negative. A project of interest for a Conservation Trust Fund must present an ecosystem service component. Electricity should only come as a bonus and not as a primary objective. **Answer:** Environmental indicators must be taken into account to show the attainment of environmental objectives.

Another example of hydroelectric dam finance was presented by the President of REDLAC for the case of Costa Rica. Indeed, the State of Costa Rica wanted to build a hydroelectric dam to meet the need for electrical energy. But the country did not have enough resources to implement the project. The ministry in charge of electricity requested funding from private investors through the issuance of bonds. Investors needed to be reassured about their return on investment. This is how the Latin American Development Bank intervened to guarantee the securities issued by the Government of Costa Rica in the event of the Government's insolvency.

2.2.1.4 Case study No. 3, Reforestation project

Dr. Theophile Zognou presented a case study of a project to regenerate forests and fight desertification in CAFÉ countries. The specificities of the project were as follows:

Table 2 : Project to promote Reforestation and fight desertification by FTNS Executive Director

Project	CAFÉ Reforestation Project and Fight against Desertification
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose 50 schools per CAFE country • Develop tree nurseries • Creation of boreholes • Environmental education • Private companies will freely provide households with butane domestic gas • Each child will plant and water one tree for 3 years • Sale of Carbon Credit
Objectives/Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve livelihoods of population • Fight desertification • Regeneration of forests
Investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donors (Development agencies) • Private stakeholders (for carbon credit investment) • State • Trust funds
Intermediaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local organizations and NGOs • State institutions for agronomic research (e.g IRAD, agronomic engineers) • Local institutions for construction of water points (boreholes or wells)
Mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donors (subsidies) • State (Subsidies on butane tax) • Private actors (BoT) • Private companies (grants through their CSR fund)

2.2.1.5 Highlights of Case study

Participants brainstormed on the feasibility of elements of the project such as

- Provision of butane gas and cookers to households
- Expected return on investment for investors
- Possibility of using carbon credits as incentives for investors
- Mechanisms for blended finance

From these discussions, it emerged that projects of this nature, have a non-financial return of environmental and social impact. It is therefore important to find the right investors. Carbon credits can be explored with the right investors. Participants were encouraged to align their projects with SDGs, in this case study, SDG No. 15 is applicable.

2.2.2 Presentation of ECOBANK: Investment opportunities in the public securities markets (CEMAC and ECOWAS)

The ECOBANK presentation focused on its main investment offers in public securities markets in Central Africa (CEMAC) and West Africa (ECOWAS)

2.2.2.1 Presentation by ECOBANK experts



Presentation by EcoBank

Officials of Ecobank, presented the Pan-African bank. Created in 1985, the bank whose headquarters is in Lomé, Togo has a palpable footprint across Africa, with branches in 35 African countries. The presentation included an overview of the bank's investment services and investment possibilities in the CEMAC and ECOWAS markets, markets chosen on account of their stability and fixed currencies.

2.2.2.2 Question and answer session

In the question-and-answer session following the presentation, participants sought to know:

Q. What tools Ecobank has put in place for collections of funds and donations

A. Ecobank has developed several tools to facilitate fund collection

Q. What steps are being taken by Ecobank to make international transactions hitch free

A. As a Pan-African bank, Ecobank values all its clients and will provide the necessary support and strengthen partnership with CAFÉ

Q. What has been Ecobank's contribution to conservation over the years.

A. 15% of the bank's investment budget is dedicated to Green Finance. The bank will also explore more avenues to develop sustainability partnerships

Q. Can Ecobank be interested in investing in blended finance projects through concessional grants, as opposed to bank loans?

A. Ecobank is willing to explore this opportunity

Q. Can Ecobank develop services which would require clients to contribute to a fund for the protection of the environment?

A. Ecobank is willing to explore this opportunity



The 3rd day of the 12th CAFE General Assembly on Wednesday September 14, 2022, unfolded in 2 phases: A solemn opening ceremony by the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife, Koulsoumi Alhadji, representative of the Minister of Forests and Wildlife: and a series of conferences, virtual presentations and plenary discussions.

2.3.1 Official Opening Ceremony of 12th CAFÉ General Assembly

Three speeches marked the 12th CAFE G.A. Speeches by the Board chair of FTNS, the outgoing President of CAFE, and the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife.



2.3.1.1 Welcome speech by FTNS' Board Chair, Mr Raymond Mbitikon

The main points of the FTNS Board chair' speech

- Honoured to host the CAFÉ General Assembly
Recall the organisation of the CAFÉ assembly in 2014 by the FTNS;
- Welcomes the confidence placed in the FTNS by CAFÉ;
- Thanks the Cameroonian government and the CTF
- Recalls the history of the creation of the FTNS;
Recalls the importance of the FTNS in the social support of the TNS (Employment, education,...)
- The Assembly is an opportunity to share experiences between members and also an opportunity to present to partners the importance of environmental funds in Africa



2.3.1.2 The main points of the CAFE President's speech, Ms Karen Price

The main points of the CAFE President's speech

- CAFE is an organisation of Africans for Africans
Reminder of the Kigali Declaration for the creation of a Blue Fund in Africa
- Protected areas do not have enough money to support conservation
- Renewed call for partners to fund conservation
Public-private partnership important for conservation funding
- The 11th CAFÉ assembly was held in Mozambique
Recall the agreement between CAFÉ and RED-LAC, which will help mobilise more funding for protected areas. This platform also allows experience sharing.
- The examples of Madagascar (important mobilization of funds), Mozambique (high yielding plant) and FTNS (support to education in TNS,...) testify to the importance of sharing experiences between CTFs.
- Thanks the Executive Committee, the Secretariat, KFW and FTNS



2.3.1.3 Opening address by the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, representing the Minister, Mrs Kouloum Alhadji

- Thanks CAFE for choosing Cameroon;
Recalls the importance of the ecosystem services provided to the populations;
- Recalls that the government is in the process of preparing the post 2020 framework for biodiversity
- Recall the importance of the Congo Basin for the protection of the planet against climate change
The exceptional wealth of fauna and flora in the Congo Basin;
- These fauna and flora species are threatened.
- This requires significant financial resources.
Protected areas do not have enough means to carry out their policies. The support rate for pro-



tected areas is only 40%.

- This is an opportunity to see how to fill this gap to enhance biodiversity in Africa.
- Cameroon has two CTFs members of CAFRE, namely FTNS and FEDEC;
- History of the creation of the FTNS
There are other initiatives to create funds in Cameroon
- The CAFÉ assembly is an opportunity to strengthen the capacities of members and to capitalise on innovative initiatives.





2.3.1.4 Cultural Activities

The opening ceremony was spiced by cultural dances, by a group which performed dances from the 4 geocultural zones of Cameroon, highlighting Cameroon’s cultural diversity.

2.4 Conferences and Presentations

This session was dedicated to presentations by donor organizations and CAFÉ members on their roles in funding or preserving biodiversity, as well as experiences on the field. It was followed by discussions, questions and suggestions

2.4.1 Highlights of Presentations on RedLAC by its President and Executive Secretary



The Network of Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Funds, is a community of environmental funds that strengthens the capacities of its 27-member environmental funds for conservation and sustainable development. Created in 1999, it works to protect 50% of the world’s tropical forests. Challenges include:

- Mobilizing private sector for financing biodiversity conservation
- Innovative financing for biodiversity conservation
- Inclusive and sustainable development to fight poverty in the region
- Need for structural changes in economic systems to be able to achieve Sustainable Development Goals



2.4.2 Highlights of Presentation by KfW

The presentation by the Director of the KfW Department LAC 1 Central African Bureau, Bruno Schoen, highlighted the German development Bank's commitment to funding biodiversity, with an overview of the various funds KfW is supporting :

- **Created in 1948, KfW has 600 departments**
- **Portfolio of €4 million for international development**
- **KfW is active in the protection of biodiversity**
- **These are marine, land and systems protection (Identify new protected areas and equip existing ones with equipment, infrastructure and management Secure permanent funding)**
- **Conservation and management of protected areas (restoration of forest landscapes and REDD+)**
- **Promotion of sustainable fishing and aquaculture**
- **Granted assistance for the conservation of biodiversity to the tune of €3.5 and €8.4 billion in 2020.**
- **72% of these funds allocated, is intended for developing countries**
- **KfW supported 847 protected areas in 59 countries, i.e., 1.9 million km² in 2021**



Presentation by KfW Yaoundé Director, Dr Bruno SCHOEN

2.4.3 Conference: Contribution of Conservation Trust Funds to the preservation of Biodiversity in Africa

Suggestion for CAFÉ network to coordinate data on how much is managed by each fund in order to have good bench marks for comparison



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Highlights of Conference

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Biofund: Donors and local government were crucial to the creation of the 10-year-old organization, BioFund. It supports 60% of protected areas in the country. KfW sponsors 60% of its endowment. It hopes to diversify its means of funding, and one of the challenges it faces is showing the impact of its activities.

BACoMaB. The fund was created thanks to the German cooperation. The country has important marine resources Its activities include monitoring, shared governance, funding of protect areas. It hopes to cover even more protected areas.

TFF: Funding for the Tanzania Forest Fund mostly comes from government levies, but the organization also mobilizes funds for its activities. It offers grants and soft loans for activities such as tree planting, forest conservation and management. It supports projects to improve the livelihoods of populations in protected areas.

UBTF: Uganda is one of the 10 most biodiverse countries in the world. The Ugandan

Biodiversity Trust Fund hopes to help maintain this status, but the country is faced with a triple threat:

- Climate change
- New discovery of oil
- Refugee challenge

Uganda has enacted very good protection laws and policies, but economic arguments sometimes outweigh conservation activities. Environment and natural resources sector only gets 0.5% – 3% of total funding. This is why alternative sources of funding from the private sector, is important for UBF, which is a holistic trust fund. He emphasised the importance of raising resources and delivering results, which in turn encourages government agencies to trust them.

KfW : The KfW representative encouraged CTFs which mostly depend on German and French development agencies, to diversify sources of funding, in order to bridge the funding gap. Other talking points included :

- Need to further discussions on how CAFÉ members can capitalize on their platform to build regional and sub regional coalitions
- Suggestion on the creation of an endowment fund to finance CAFÉ activities (e.g., general assemblies).
- Suggestion for CAFÉ network to coordinate data on how much is managed by each fund in order to have good bench marks for comparison.



2.4.4 BRIDGE Project to mobilize private sector for financing biodiversity conservation

The Bridge Project according to its coordinator is a RedLAC and CAFÉ joint initiative, whose objective is to bridge the gap between finance and conservation.

- Project is built on the results of Project K, and aims to engage private sector finance.
- CTF financial resources mostly stem from public and multilateral capital.
- It is important to seek other sources of financing especially private sector.
- Pillars that support Bridge project are:
 - Innovative fund: Several concept notes already submitted by CAFÉ and RedLAC.
 - Communities of practice: Support to RedLAC/CAFÉ annual general assemblies, 8 mentorships, 4 working groups.
 - Knowledge exchange
- Expected outcomes and goals include private sector engagement in mainstreaming biodiversity through new mechanisms.

2.4.5 Virtual Session: WADAPPT-Innovative Financing for accelerating Climate/ Biodiversity Conservation in Africa

Highlights of presentation by WADAPPT by David Wood

- Massive funding gap in conservation funding, with donor agencies currently stretched thin.
- Six years into the SDGs, these goals may not be met as they require substantial amounts to achieve.
- Many conservation projects although not bankable, can fix ecosystems with a lasting impact, therefore, innovative means of financing are recommended.
- In addition to conventional/traditional finance mechanisms, digital finance provides alternative and innovative ways of funding conservation
- To be able to benefit from the digital finance mechanisms, environmental and conservation Funds therefore need to:
 - Have good data capture (handheld devices)
 - Align data with international frameworks (SDGs, UNEP, IFC, EU taxonomy etc.)
 - Have a biodiversity impact project
- Highlights of Namibian Online nature markets (marketing wildlife credit)
- Using handheld devices, data is collected on endangered species in various conservancies
- Cloud technology ensures that every data point from the ground is verified and trusted
- With such verification, these data points are categorized and attributed to SDGs.
- Data is packaged into a certificate and a price attached to it
- These certificates can be bought anywhere in the world.
- The more certificates a park issues, the more they sell, generate revenue and attract donors.
- Namibia has secured funding from key donors for initial payment, thereby blending donor funding with private sector investments.
- CAFÉ members can collaborate to set up data points



2.4.6 WADAPPT-Innovative Financing Question and Answer session

Q. Are online nature markets applicable in all protected areas?

A. Each conservancy is different but can adapt components and structure data points based on their realities

Q. How many certificates have been issued in Namibia so far and have these earned any money?

A. The technologies being used are trusted, and consume as little energy as possible. However, the project is a pioneer of its kind, and the system is still being set up. The first certificates will be issued in 2 months

Q. Will there be an intermediary to ensure that data collected matches reality on the ground and that certificates are not falsified?

A. With blockchain technology, data points from the ground, all the way to certificates can be verified to ensure they are not manipulated

Thursday September 15, 2022 was the last day of the CAFE General Assembly. The day's program had 2 main activities:

- Presentation of APACT (Pan-African Fund for the Conservation of Biodiversity)
- Closed session for CAFE members only.

2.5.1 Presentation of Pan African Conservation Trust Fund (APACT): Process and Design by Andréa Athanas of the African Wildlife Foundation

Highlights of the presentation on APACT, were as follows::

- APACT is an African conservation trust fund
- It is an African-led funding mechanism for protected areas and biodiversity conservation areas across the continent
- It is a means of channeling global and African funding to the backbone of natural infrastructure across the continent
- Puts people at the center of the agenda, ensuring that protected areas and conserved areas serve Africa's development aspirations
- Is chaired by former Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn
- Limits disbursements to protected areas larger than 5,000 km²
- Promotes equitable access to conservation funds
- Conservation of biodiversity is a priority and its financing an obligation;
- Will ensure transparency and good governance
- Will minimize administrative hassle
- Will maximize synergy with existing funds
- Will involve the private sector in biodiversity conservation

2.5.2 Question and Answer session

Table 3 : Question and answer session following APACT

Closed session for CAFE members only.

2.5.2 Question and answer session following APACT Presentation

No.	Questions / Comments	Responses (APACT)
1.	Why limit biodiversity conservation targets to protected areas of 5,000 km ² ?	There is no precise answer on the choice of 5000 km ² . However, discussions were held internally to arrive at this figure.
2.	Is the allocation of 2 billion per year for protected areas not insufficient with regard to the needs of CTFs?	Regarding the two billion, it is already a very high ambition
3.	What is the legal fund management framework of the APACT?	APACT's model is based on the African Union's way of managing COVID funds
4.	In the presentation, the expression "Maximizing collaboration with existing CTFs" was mentioned. Can you clarify us on what this entails?	/
5.	Will the funds allocated to the CTFs be in the form of Project funds or Endowment funds?	APACT funds are primarily intended for conservation trust funds.
6.	Are APACT donors the same as traditional CTF donors?	APACT is pursuing more innovative ways of financing APACT intends to be the delivery mechanism through which funds are channelled to CTFs
7.	Does APACT grant funds to existing CTFs? How does it work? and what are the details of the funding	The idea is to work only with existing CTFs. The allocation to the CTFs will be made in stages. Well managed CTFs can write grant proposals.
8.	You mentioned that Directors of African CTFs are involved in the APACT initiative, yet Mauritania was not aware.	African CTF Directors are indeed involved in APACT. If Mauritania was not present, you can send him APACT contact details.
9.	How should APACT seek funds without competing with CAFE? Is there a possibility of conflicts arising?	/
10.	How does APACT get its financing and who are its donors?	There is no funding yet, but rather pledges of funding. But several financiers are ready to support the APACT project.
11.	Will you only consider publicly managed protected areas?	The mechanism covers all protected areas, whether publicly or privately managed.

2.5.2 Question and Answer session

It is important to have the presence of beneficiaries and donors in decision-making bodies

BRIDGE: There is potential for cooperation between APACT and BRIDGE. This should be overseen by CAFÉ.

CAFE members have more experience that will need to be capitalized on

CAFE will choose a focal point to lead discussions/negotiations with APACT

A memorandum of understanding will be important for the formality of the steering committee

Possibility of cooperation between APACT and REDLAC. Need to sign an agreement in principle and make it formal

Possibility of cooperation between the BRIDGE project and APACT, but wish for BRIDGE to have more information on the results of feasibility study to continue negotiations

CAFE is a board member of APACT

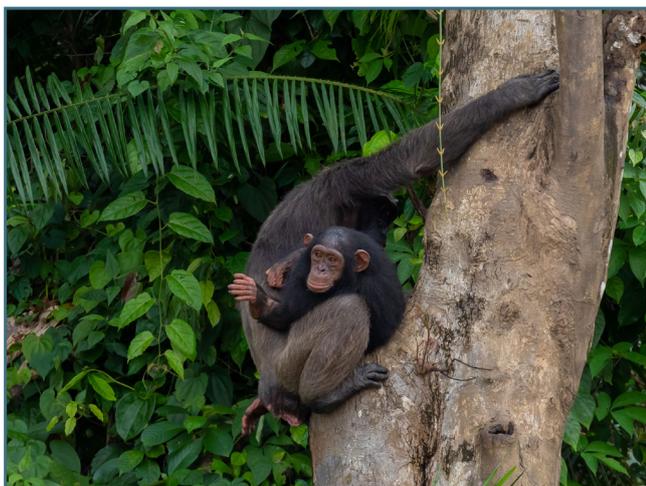
2.6 Closed session CAFE General Assembly

The closed session of the 12th CAFE General Assembly, for members only, resulted in the election of a new President to steer the organization, Dr Theophile Zognou, Executive Director of FTNS, and a new Vice President, Mr. Tapiwa Makiwa of the CCFN.

Day 05

Field Trip Visit

A field trip visit to the Douala Edéa National Park was also organised on September 16, 2022. Through this initiative, close to 30 participants including MINFOP's, Secretary of State, were opportuned to visit the renowned Chimpanzee Island.





CAFÉ's incoming president's Speech

Dr Théophile
Zognou (FTNS)

Secretary of State to the Cameroonian Minister of Forestry and Wildlife,

Ms. Karen Price outgoing President of CAFE

Mr. Jorge Oviedo President of Redlac,

Mr. Chairman of the Board of Directors of FTNS, *

Dear Executive Directors of CAFE member trust funds,

Distinguished guests,

Today is CAFÉ's day. It is a day of consensus, a day of history and hope, of renewal and determination for our association.

I would like to start by thanking my colleagues on the Executive Committee for the confidence and the GA for choosing me to be the torchbearer of our organisation for the coming years.

CAFÉ is great and demands greatness from us.

I thank my predecessors. I thank them from the bottom of my heart. And I know the resilience of our charter and the strength of our organisation, as did my predecessors Fenosoa, Fanny Ngolo and Tim Fometé with whom I spoke this morning, and who cannot be with us today, but whom we salute for their selfless service to the association. A big thank you to our very warm Karen Price who has been masterful and in all the great battles of our organisation since the beginning. Dear Karen, you have just changed jobs but you remain a member of the CAFÉ dream team.

I would also like to thank our various donors KFW, FFEM and the Mava Foundation without whom this general assembly would not have been a success.

As I said earlier, CAFE is great and requires greatness, discipline and consistency

from us. This is an opportunity for me to call for unity and above all general mobilisation for our protected areas. To the honourable members of the executive committee in particular and to all members of CAFE in general, I would be grateful if you would take the appropriate measures for an effective and efficient participation in the various actions to come.

We will move forward with speed and urgency, for we have much to do in these times of peril to our biodiversity and significant opportunity. Much to repair, much to restore, many wounds to heal, much to build and much to gain. Few in the annals of our history have had more challenges or lived in such difficult times as we have.

A cry for survival comes from the planet itself. A cry that could not be more desperate or clearer, and now the rise of terrorism let us remember the havoc orchestrated by terrorists in the peaceful W-Arly-Pendjari protected area complex funded by the FSOA of our dear brother and colleague Alfred Koffi.

To overcome these challenges, to restore the soul and ensure the future of our protected areas, we need not only discipline, consistency, unity in our ranks, but a lot of money and this is once again an opportunity for me to appeal to public and private donors.

CAFÉ must reinvent itself, set up its own projects and seek funding for its influence. APACT is coming, and we must not go into it in a scattered formation, but as a united organisation, confident of its future.

Let history guide us, let history inspire us and let history tell future generations that we have answered the call of history, that we have seized the moment and, as Antoine de Saint Exupéry said, “we do not bequeath nature to our children, we borrow it from them”.

With resolution and determination, we take responsibility for these tasks of the moment, supported by faith, animated by conviction and devoted to each other and to Africa, which we love with all our heart. God bless CAFE

3. Conclusion

The organization of the 12th CAFE General Assembly was a resounding success according to the participants from various countries. A total of 19 trust funds from various African countries participated both physically and online. Also present were the administrative authorities, technical and financial partners (KFW, AWF, etc.), RedLAC (sister organization of CAFE in Latin America). The event, which took place over five days, helped to strengthen the capacity of conservation trust funds, particularly on blended finance and its contribution to biodiversity conservation and innovative financing to improve biodiversity conservation in Africa. This Assembly was also an opportunity to share experiences between the CTFs. One of the main lessons learned from this General Assembly is the need for CTFs to diversify their source of funding by involving the private sector. The commercial bank ECOBANK, invited to this event, has made a commitment to study the possibility of collaborating with the CTFs to raise funds for biodiversity. The BRIDGE project coordinator during this event presented the status of the project and its prospects for the future. In the same vein, the presentation on AFACT (Pan-African Fund for the Conservation of Biodiversity) allowed participants to gain an appraisal of its objectives and a general overview of the initiative. On the institutional level, a new president and vice-president were elected to lead CAFE.

3. CAFE Board EXCO & Members



Karen Price
Outgoing CAFE President (MEET)



Theophile Zognou
New CAFE President (FTNS)



Tapiwa Makiwa
New CAFE Vice President (CCFN)



LEFGHIH Ahmed
BACOMAB



MSUYA Tuli Salum
TAFF



**GERVAIS DE ROUVILLE
Guillaume Sébastien**
OKAPI



**BARREIROS JORGE Maria
Alexandra Lopes**
BIOFUND



RAHARIJAONA Alain Sandy
FAPBM



Virginie EDOA
FEDEC



NJAGU James Ngungu
Netfund



BRUESSOW Carl Denes
MMCT



**ALLOGNINUWA
Koffi Alfred**
FSOA