

WEBINAR

# Climate Impacts & Policy Pathways

Considerations into Integrated Land Use Management Plans in the Congo Basin

Thursday february 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | 6PM EAT / 4 PM WAT

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## Meet our speakers



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*Moderator*



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Organized with:



## Session Objectives



### Understanding Climate impacts in the Congo Basin landscapes

A concise, evidence-based snapshot of the most significant climate-driven changes affecting ecosystems and livelihoods.



### Integrating climate risks into planning

Practical pathways to embed climate risks into land-use planning and policy.



### Cross-sector collaboration opportunities

Targeted avenues for cooperation across environment, agriculture, finance, and development.



### Stakeholder engagement for resilient landscapes

Approaches to mobilize diverse stakeholders and co-create climate-resilient solutions.

## About the Webinar

The Congo Basin is facing unprecedented climate challenges—rising temperatures, prolonged dry spells, and unpredictable rainfall—posing serious threats to biodiversity, forest carbon stocks, and local livelihoods. The recent report by Woodwell Climate Research Center (WCRC) provides insights into these impacts and offers strategic pathways for integrating climate considerations into land use management.

This webinar aims to disseminate the findings from the recent report (sent to the CBLI as part of their partnership) by the Woodwell Climate Research Center (WCRC) and aims to stimulate dialogue and promote actionable policy responses for resilient landscape management.

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Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Climate Action,  
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of  
the German Bundestag



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Considerations into Integrated Land Use Management Plans in the Congo Basin

# CLIMATE ANALYSIS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON INCORPORATING CLIMATE CHANGE

## Report overview

This analysis examines climate impacts in four critical transboundary landscapes in the Congo Basin—Campo Ma’an-Rio Campo (CMRC), Monte Alén-Monts de Cristal (MAMC), Sangha Tri-National (TNS), and Lac Télé-Lac Tumba (LTLT)—focusing on five key climate indicators: the annual number of dry days, extreme precipitation rate and frequency, heat (specifically as related to carbon stocks in tropical forests), and precipitation seasonality. Results show increasing dry periods, extended high heat conditions (particularly in TNS and LTLT), and an intensification of precipitation seasonality and extreme precipitation.

## THE CHALLENGE

Together, these changes threaten already endangered wildlife as well as the capacity of tropical forests to efficiently store carbon. In particular, a shift to a regime of sustained extreme heat could trigger a decline in the capacity of tropical forests to store carbon. Changes in temperature and precipitation patterns have also been linked to declining fruit tree yields, impacting endangered species like gorillas and forest elephants that rely on fruit trees as a critical food source. Declining food resources impact people as well, forcing them to shift agricultural calendars and increase hunting frequency, putting additional pressures on already vulnerable wildlife species.

While the need to consider biodiversity, climate impacts, and land management are acknowledged in Congo Basin Forest governance plans, they remain siloed by sector and secondary to a dominant land-conversion economic paradigm.

## SOLUTIONS

Economic growth and poverty alleviation strategies still operate largely on a land-conversion paradigms, and meaningful integration will require:

- Binding, cross-sectoral land use planning that uses climate hazard projections to inform spatial planning and to strengthen protected areas and ecological corridors for elephants, gorillas, and endemic species.
- Fiscal reforms that reward forest stewardship, such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes.

This Woodwell Climate Research Center climate and policy analysis is in support of the **Transformational Change in Sustainable Forest Management in Transboundary Landscapes of the Congo Basin** Project as part of the GEF 7 Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Programme. The analysis addresses Output 4.2.1: “Downscaled climate models including scenario planning developed for and applied to the priority landscapes [...] and recommendations for policy makers on how Integrated Land Use Management Plans (ILUMPs) can incorporate climate change considerations.”

- The recognition of biodiversity as productive capital and strategic natural infrastructure for climate and water security, which requires investment in ecological monitoring systems.
- Stronger links between rural livelihoods, ecosystems, and national growth strategies, in which ILUMPs offer pathway to formally recognize and protect community and Indigenous land rights, reducing conflict, enabling long-term stewardship, and strengthening access to climate and conservation finance.

**Integrated Land Use Management Plans (ILUMPs)** play a critical enabling role in unlocking forest and landscape finance because they translate fragmented data and policy objectives into coherent, jurisdiction-scale investment propositions. Given the challenge of widespread gaps in meteorological, ecological, and socio-economic data, the ILUMP framework is intentionally structured to function in data-limited environments such as the Congo Basin.

Rather than relying on comprehensive or high-resolution datasets, the approach emphasizes iterative and adaptive planning, participatory processes, and spatially explicit analysis that focuses on trends, risks, and trade-offs instead of precise forecasts. By embedding climate vulnerability analysis, ecological connectivity, watershed protection, and scenario-based planning into ILUMPs, countries can reduce land use conflicts, enhance resilience, and align conservation with long-term economic productivity. Although coordinating ILUMPs in transboundary landscapes presents complex challenges, sustained transnational coordination can be supported by tools such as targeted scenario analysis, as well as durable regional platforms, long-term financing, and conflict-resolution mechanisms.