



Brazzaville Foundation
for peace and conservation

The Launch of the Congo Basin Blue Fund Oyo, Republic of the Congo 8-9 March 2017

With its incredibly rich flora and fauna, the Congo Basin is one of the world's most important ecological systems. Its forests are second only to the Amazon Basin as a global carbon sink and their preservation has a crucial role in reducing global warming. At the same time the countries and peoples of the Congo Basin have the right to economic development and improved standards of living.

At the COP 22 in Marrakesh in November 2016, the President of the Republic of Congo, in partnership with the Brazzaville Foundation, announced a new initiative, the Congo Basin Blue Fund, whose aim is to reconcile these two imperatives by shifting the focus of Congo Basin economies from the exploitation of forests to a new form of sustainable development based on the huge potential in renewable resources that the waters of the Congo and its tributaries represent.

Creating a “Blue Economy” and raising standards of living

The Congo Basin Blue Fund, which now enjoys the support of 12 African countries and whose scope extends beyond the Congo Basin, will help those countries finance a shift in their economies from reliance on forest-based resources to much greater use of renewable river and water-based resources. It thus offers an alternative and environmentally sustainable means of economic development for the benefit of the countries and the peoples of the region, while at the same time helping to preserve forest resources and contributing to the alleviation of global warming.

The Blue Fund will underpin what the Economic Commission for Africa calls Africa's “Blue Economy” and deliver both economic and environmental sustainability.

This initiative is supported by: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.



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Generating economically and environmentally sustainable development

In view of the continuing problems of poverty and deforestation as well as wider environmental and climate change concerns, there is a strong case for changing the basis of Congo Basin economies from the exploitation of forests to the exploration of the benefits of rivers and their tributaries that flow through the entire basin. It would focus on creating real economic assets such as:

- improved river navigation and transport, including dredging and small ports infrastructure
- renewable energy, including hydro-electric projects/small dams
- irrigation projects to increase productivity of existing arable and agricultural land
- fishing and fish farming
- improved provision of fresh water and treatment of waste water and solid waste
- eco-tourism
- Scientific research on the hydrology and the potential of water resources in the region.

In recognition of the contribution that this shift to a Blue Economy represents for environmental protection and the mitigation of climate change, the Congo Basin Blue Fund will seek financial support from the main climate change financial instruments including the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, from major donors, from the private sector through public/private partnerships and from national, regional and multilateral financial institutions.

An Agreement on the creation of the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin will be signed in Oyo in the Republic of the Congo on 9 March 2017