



Table of contents

6 Preface

8 Challenges and solutions in the green heart of Africa

Conversation with forest veteran Emmanuel Ze Meka from Cameroon about forests and biodiversity in the green heart of Africa and what has to be done to keep it green.

20 Megabiodiversity

Kevin Njabo from Cameroon describes the magnificent megabiodiversity in the Congo Basin rainforest. He explains the functions of animals and plants in the forest ecosystem. This chapter contains many and beautiful pictures.

40 Benefits of ecosystem services

Godwin Kowero, Executive Secretary of the African Forest Forum, tells about the great importance of the Congo Basin forests for the welfare, health and well-being of the people living in Central Africa and for the global community. He explains the benefits of the many life-supporting ecosystem services these forests have to offer.

46 Protection in practice in Salonga National Park in Democratic Republic of Congo.

About how poaching is organized and the struggle to fight it.

60 Gorilla tourism in Moukalaba-Doudou

Eyewitness report about the search for gorillas in the rainforest of Gabon. How community tourism contributes to poverty alleviation and nature conservation.

74 Living with the bonobos: Olivia's Diary

In the Democratic Republic of Congo a young couple from Europe works on the protection of bonobos, living in the rainforest with their nine-month old baby.

88 Infrastructure expansion and the fate of Central African forests

2,200 protected areas are at risk if no measures are taken. By William F. Laurance and Mahmoud I. Mahmoud of James Cook University and Fritz Kleinschroth of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich (ETHZ).

96 The road to transformation of practices on the (forest) land

This chapter unveils the vastness and challenges of the global operation of REDD+. By Isilda Nhantumbo and Raymond Achu Samndong of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

108 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.

116 The voice of traditional leaders

'The way to preserve nature is to involve the indigenes in all methods and logic they have conceived in its preservation during centuries.' By HM (Mfaw) Robinson Tambe-ayuk Tanyi, Secretary General of the Pan African Council of Traditional and Native Authorities (PACTNA).

120 FSC-certified forest management: keeping forests and bettering lives

Eyewitness report from a forest concession in the Republic of Congo. What is sustainable forest management in practice? Everything you always wanted to know.

148 Plea for the use of lesser known tree species in sustainable forest management

By Patrick Martin and Elise Héral of the International Tropical Timber Technical Association (ATIBT).

152 Tropical forest? Use it or lose it!

The main objective of the European Tropical Timber Coalition (STTC) is to increase the demand for sustainable tropical timber in Europe. By Ted van der Put of IDH / The Sustainable Trade Initiative in the Netherlands.

156 The significance of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

What can FSC do for forest communities and national governments in Central Africa? How is an independent, third-party FSC certification set up? Q's and A's.

160 Taking control

In the Democratic Republic of Congo a transition from illegal small-scale logging to legal logging is on the rise. Both loggers and the state benefit.

164 Charcoal plantations reduce deforestation

Tree plantations for charcoal are an important solution to reduce deforestation and pull people out of poverty at the same time. Worldwide Fund for Nature WWF, local NGOs and tree-planting farmers are proving this every day in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

172 Innovation in agriculture reduces pressure on forests

Population growth and the expansion of small-scale and industrial, large-scale agriculture are considered to be major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the Congo Basin. Innovations in agricultural practices are necessary to improve productivity, enhance producer livelihoods and reduce conversion of forests into fields for agriculture. By Denis Jean Sonwa and Rachid Hanna of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Cameroon.

178 The future of palm oil in Africa

Preconditions for large-scale expansion of palm oil production. Schemes where smallholders produce the crop and companies process the oil should be taken as the basis when palm oil production expands in Africa. By Peter Minang of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

182 Analog forestry enriches the soil

A chemical-free way of growing crops restores ecosystem services and contributes to resilience against climate change in Cameroon.

188 Tree domestication spares forests and increases farmer income

By Zac Tchoundjeu and Bertin Takoutsing of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

192 Congo Basin Institute facilitates international science on the spot

Graduate students and young professionals in biology, ecology, nature conservation and tropical agriculture have a new, exciting opportunity in Central Africa.

198 Central African Forests deserve to be in the limelight

André van Heemstra, Chairman of UN Global Compact Network Netherlands, invites companies in Central Africa to develop partnerships with companies in the Netherlands and companies of other Global Compact networks.

202 Acknowledgements