



proforest

# The Africa Palm Oil Initiative's Fifth Regional Meeting

## *From policy to practice: Advancing the implementation of sustainable commodity production in Africa*

8-11<sup>th</sup> October 2018 | Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

### Context

The Africa Palm Oil Initiative (APOI) is the first signature initiative of the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA 2020). Its vision is a prosperous palm oil industry that brings jobs and wealth to local communities in a way that is environmentally and socially sustainable and protects the rich tropical forests of the region. In November 2016 seven West and Central African countries at the frontier of new palm oil development signed the [Marrakesh Declaration](#) at COP22, pledging to sustainably develop the oil palm sector in the region; supported by regional and international private sector and civil society organizations through a joint support statement.

Every year, the APOI convenes regional meetings to connect its implementing partners in ten countries—Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone – with stakeholders from around the world. These meetings provide a space to forge connections between the TFA 2020 community in West and Central Africa, to build and strengthen public-private partnerships for sustainable palm oil production in the region, as well as to share experiences and lessons learnt from the APOI process for multi-stakeholder commodity platforms around the world. The APOI has extended its vision beyond sustainable palm oil in recognition of the fact that production landscapes often include multiple forest-risk commodities and different challenges for addressing the social and environmental impacts of commodity agriculture development. In May of 2018, the APOI convened the first Africa Implementation Dialogue, organised back-to-back with the TFA 2020 General Assembly in Accra, which aimed to bring together jurisdictions in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana with key stakeholders who could help those jurisdictions realize their forest conservation plans while responsibly growing their economies.

Drawing upon the lessons learnt in Accra, the APOI has the great pleasure of convening its fifth regional meeting in Central Africa through a series of interwoven meetings between 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Brazzaville, the Republic of Congo. These events are being organised in close conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of Congo, as well as our implementing partner in the Republic of Congo, the World Resources Institute.

### Objectives

Taking place two years after the signing of the Marrakesh Declaration, this regional meeting will focus on the practical approaches to delivering the ambitious commitments made at COP22 at the regional level, and in all the ten countries participating in the APOI.

Key objectives of the week will include:

- **Share learning and understanding between the ten APOI countries:** share key challenges and opportunities for maintaining national commodity platforms and implementing national action plans based on experiences by country teams, as well as continue to build a shared understanding of the goals of the TFA 2020 APOI.
- **Advance high-impact partnerships:** explore how to establish a favourable environment for partnerships and fundraising to implement national APOI action plans. Connect the TFA 2020 community in West and Central Africa and work together to build and strengthen public-private partnerships for sustainable commodity production in the region, especially at jurisdictional levels and in the palm oil, rubber, and cocoa sectors.
- **Understand jurisdictional approaches and their potential for large-scale impact in the region:** increase understanding of jurisdictional approaches and their potential for large-scale impact in the region by looking at examples of these interventions in-region, and by brainstorming their practical

applications for critical commodities (e.g., palm oil, rubber, cocoa) in the context of West and Central Africa.

## Provisional programme for the week

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Kick-off activities</b>	<b>APOI Regional Meeting: From policy to practice</b>	<b>Understanding jurisdictional approaches: a working meeting</b>	<b>Partnership Dialogue</b>
<p>We are invited to visit a palm oil plantation on the outskirts of Brazzaville. Following this morning excursion, the APOI will host a welcome dinner in the evening, preceded by a performance to raise awareness of the plight of deforestation in the Republic of Congo.</p> <p><i>These events will be open to all stakeholders. Please register your interest in attending at the event registration page.</i></p>	<p>A full-day meeting to discuss the present challenges and successes of the APOI, and how the initiative plans to move from policy to practice in the implementation of the national action plans. Sessions will include panels, presentations, and group working sessions led by experts from around the world.</p> <p><i>This meeting will be open to all stakeholders.</i></p>	<p>A full-day working meeting to introduce and discuss the concept of jurisdictional approaches, present case studies of such initiatives that are in progress and identify potential programmes and applications of the jurisdictional concept in West and Central Africa across relevant commodities (e.g., palm oil, rubber, cocoa).</p> <p><i>This meeting will be open to all stakeholders.</i></p>	<p>A half-day meeting connecting potential partners – donors, capacity building organizations, and technical experts – to APOI country teams to support the implementation of national action plans.</p> <p><i>This meeting will be invitation only, open exclusively to relevant stakeholders at our discretion. Please register your interest at the event registration page.</i></p>

### Note that the information in this programme is subject to change.

In the interest of facilitating exchange between the different participants, simultaneous interpretation will be provided between English and French on all days.

## Call for participation

These meeting will be attended by palm oil, rubber, and cocoa industry stakeholders from the public, private, and civil society sectors in West and Central Africa, as well as key regional, international, and multi-lateral organisations with interest in deforestation-free commodity production.

**To request an invitation for your organization to participate in any of the above meetings**, please [contact the host](#) stating your name, title, organisation, and your objective(s) for attending the fifth APOI regional meeting.

*The Africa Palm Oil Initiative is coordinated by Proforest on behalf of the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020, thanks to financial support from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) through the Partnership for Forests Programme (P4F) and from the Global Environment Facility through the Good Growth Partnership, via World Wildlife Fund.*