

Conference

1st International Conference
on Biodiversity
in the Congo Basin

June 6 – 10, 2014
Kisangani, D.R.Congo



This conference is an initiative of the University of Kisangani, the Royal Museum for Central Africa, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the National Botanic Garden of Belgium and the 'Centre de Surveillance de la Biodiversité' in Kisangani to facilitate interactions and collaborations among Congolese, Belgian and international teams and experts involved in various fields of **biodiversity-related research in the Congo Basin**.

The forest ecosystems of the Congo Basin constitute the second largest area of contiguous tropical forest in the world and represent approximately twenty percent of the world's remaining closed canopy tropical forest. They are home to animal species such as bonobos, mountain gorillas and okapis. These forests do not only play a significant role for global biodiversity conservation, they also provide essential regional and global ecological services as carbon sink and freshwater catchment basin. Millions of people depend on these natural resources for their survival in a unique ecosystem that is endangered by deforestation, poaching, over-fishing and mining activities.

This 1st Conference on Biodiversity in the Congo Basin is a unique opportunity for African and international scientific communities and other stakeholders to meet, exchange information, compare and jointly analyze data to facilitate the sustainable use and conservation of the biodiversity and the natural resources of the Congo Basin.

The main outcome of this conference will be a strengthened network of interested parties, also from the Amazon-Basin, that provides improved access to up-to-date information on their biological and ecological resources to the governments of the DR Congo and other countries of the Congo Basin. This enhanced flow of information can be helpful to these countries to develop the national strategies on their renewable natural resources and to facilitate well-founded decision making in this regard.

Main themes of the conference

Climate change and biodiversity
Biodiversity and sustainable development
Conservation

Deadlines

February 15, 2014: abstract submission deadline
March 30, 2014: early registration deadline
May 1, 2014: registration deadline

Grants

A small number of grants for non-Congolese Africans is available. They will be attributed to selected talks and poster's presenters.

<http://congbiodiversityconference2014.africamuseum.be> (English/Français)



With the support of The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) and the Flemish Universities development cooperation

