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| UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**BUREAU FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY (BDP)** | MISSION REPORT SUMMARY**Date: 28 Sept 2012** |
| **Name:** Silje Haugland | EEG | **Phone :** +41-212-906-5190 | **Travel Authorization #:**  |
| **Approved Mission Itinerary:**New York-Paris-DoualaDouala- Paris-New York | **List of Annexes**: * [Agenda for the CBFP-COMIFAC Thematic Day on gender equality](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=10035&Itemid=53)
* [Presentation on UN-REDD’s work on gender](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=10037&Itemid=53)
* [List of Participants](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=10036&Itemid=53)
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| **Inclusive Travel Date**16-20 March 2013 | **Key counterparts in location*** Participants at the CBFP-COMIFAC meeting:

UNDP colleagues (Ellen Aalerud, Mirey Atallah), FAO colleagues(Cleto Ndikumagenge, Danae Maniatis, Henk Hoefsloot and others), women’s networks in the region (REFADD and others), international gender/SFM experts (Helene Lagace, Julienne Longo), Norway (Jo-Kristian Stræte Røttereng), Canada (Martin Normandeau and others), US Forest Service, GIZ (Paul Scholte), civil society (Allard Blom, WWF), several country representatives (including Maribé Mujinga Nsompo Min. of Env. DRC)…. See full list of participants in the List of Annexes above. |
| **Purpose/Objective of Mission:** 1. To participate in the CBFP-COMIFAC Thematic Day on gender equality and present UN-REDD’s gender work and participate in a round table discussion.
2. To meet with UNDP DRC colleague Ellen Aalerud and discuss REDD+ in DRC and the strategic integration of a gender component in that work.
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| **Summary of Mission Findings:**Background:* As current facilitator of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) (until end of March 2013) Canada supported the organization of a CBFP-COMIFAC Thematic Day on gender equality as part of the 12th CBFP Meeting of Partners in Douala, Cameroon.
* The objective was to develop a common vision for the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC) on gender issues, and discuss the integration of gender equality considerations in the COMIFAC “Plan de Convergence” and ensure a Gender Strategy for the CBFP-COMIFAC.

1. Thematic Day on gender:* Well attended meeting with active and very engaged participants.
* Professional facilitation and high standard on the technical presentations.
* Presentation on UN-REDD’s work on gender equality received very good feedback from participants. Civil society members expressed appreciation that UN-REDD is working in this area.
* FAO presented the importance on gender considerations in MRV systems, and highlighted the new MRV project in the Congo Basin as a project which would integrate gender considerations.
* FAO presentation drew upon gender material distributed at the Policy Board meeting in Congo-Brazzaville in October 2012; this indicates a successful uptake of these knowledge products.
* Economic aspect highlighted by several participants in the discussions; the cost of inequality and how women contribute to the forest economy (for example through NTFP).
* Participants stressed the importance of equitable land tenure, and UN-REDD was encouraged to work more on this issue.
* UN-REDD publications [“Placer le genre au Coeur de la REDD+-un facteur de success”](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=6968&Itemid=53) and [“Mise en place de strategies REDD sensibles a la dimension de genre efficaces et durables”](http://www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=10039&Itemid=53) were distributed to all participants at the meeting.
* [Here](http://ccr-rac.pfbc-cbfp.org/docs/news/avril-mai-13/RDP12-Rapport%20de%20la%20journee%20thematique-18mars2013.pdf) are the conclusions from the Thematic Day on gender.

2. Meeting on DRC REDD+ work * Very productive meeting with UNDP DRC colleague Ellen Aalerud to discuss the REDD+ context in DRC and how to best integrate a strategic gender component in that work.
* Agreement on the importance of ensuring gender considerations in the Tier 2 project, and at the same time use the gender TS in DRC to 1) strengthen civil society capacity and meaningful participation on gender and REDD+ issues 2) contribute to improving the effectiveness of REDD+ policy work in DRC through providing baseline data on gender obtained through a gender analysis.
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| **Recommendations / Action to be Taken:****CBFP- COMIFAC:*** The US will take over the facilitator role from Canada in the beginning of April 2013, follow-up action from them is needed in order to ensure institutionalization of gender issues in the partnership.
* Pay attention to next steps for CBFP- COMIFAC; if a regional gender strategy is to be developed for COMIFAC; consider to continue to play a role in supporting this, align gender work in the region with this strategy, and draw lessons learned for other regions.
* Follow up with FAO on the plans for a gender sensitive MRV system(s) for the Congo Basin.

**DRC:**Continue to provide support to the UNDP CO/CN-REDD on their gender equality and women’s empowerment work.Work plan has already been developed with assigned responsibilities for next steps.  | **Distribution:** * UNDP / UN-REDD global team (including the Africa regional colleagues)
* FAO and UNEP gender focal points
* UNDP Gender Team colleagues
* UNDP DRC colleague Ellen Aalerud
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