



THE YAOUNDÉ DECLARATION 2026

ADOPTED BY THE SECOND CONGO BASIN CONVENING

**Held under the theme Agroecology for Inclusion,
Sustainable Food Systems, Biodiversity and
Climate Justice in the Congo Basin**

Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon, 25 to 27 August 2026

PREAMBLE

WE, the participants in the Second Congo Basin Convening, comprising farmers' and pastoralists' organisations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women's and youth movements, civil society networks, faith-based institutions, consumer organisations, traditional authorities, researchers, parliamentarians, national governments and public institutions, regional economic communities and regional institutions, technical and funding partners, responsible private-sector actors and the media, from the six Congo Basin countries of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, together with delegates from Angola, Burundi, Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, meeting in Yaoundé from 25 to 27 August 2026 at the invitation of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) and the Concertation Nationale des Organisations Paysannes du Cameroun (CNOP-CAM), working together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Cameroon;

RECALLING the Kinshasa Declaration of August 2023, adopted at the First Congo Basin Convening, and the regional process it set in motion;

REAFFIRMING the Congo Basin Biodiversity, Climate and Agroecology Initiative (COBCAI) as the shared regional strategy of the basin, and acknowledging the mandates of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC), East African Community (EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC) and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP);

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION that agroecology is no longer an aspiration in this region but already public policy and practice, as shown by Cameroon's Law No. 2025/013 on organic production, the revision of its 1974 land law and the rise in the proportion of women holding land titles; the Central African Republic's national multi-stakeholder food systems platform and its locally developed biofertilisers and soil restoration models; the Gabon Agroecology Network, its integrated farms and community seed banks; the Democratic Republic of Congo's dedicated agroecology service and national strategy; Equatorial Guinea's national roadmap for food systems transformation; and the reach of the My Food Is African campaign across the basin;

NOTING WITH CONCERN however, that the frameworks which govern the largest share of public investment in our food systems, including the Kampala Declaration and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Strategy and Action Plan 2026 to 2035, national agriculture and food systems policies and the regional agricultural policies, speak of sustainable practices without explicitly prioritising agroecology, leaving it unnamed in implementation and unfunded in budgets;

CONCERNED FURTHER that agricultural, land, forestry, environmental and trade policies remain compartmentalised; that proven agroecological models remain trapped at pilot stage for want of advisory services, organic inputs, market outlets and sustainable credit; and that monitoring, evaluation and transparency mechanisms remain weak in every country of the basin;

RECOGNISING that the Congo Basin does not end at the borders of its six countries, and that trade corridors, timber and charcoal markets, mining, energy and infrastructure investment, transhumance and pastoral movement, displacement and refugee flows, and shared river systems mean that the decisions of neighbouring states and of ECOWAS, IGAD, ECCAS, the EAC, SADC and COMESA can protect the basin or degrade it, and that coherence between them is a condition of success;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that the basin, holding some 300 million hectares of forest, continues to lose forest cover at about 0.3 per cent each year;

ALARMED that more than half of the region's food needs are met through imports while food insecurity remains severe, and that the family farmers who feed the region receive a marginal share of public financing, research and extension;

CONDEMNING practices of fortress conservation that have evicted Indigenous Peoples and local communities from their ancestral lands without consent, compensation or redress;

AFFIRMING that the forest is not merely a stand of trees but a source of life, protection, shelter, spirituality, identity and memory, and that the cultural and spiritual values of the peoples of the basin must be respected in every decision taken about their territories;

CONVINCED that agroecology, rooted in Indigenous and local knowledge and co-created with science, is a proven pathway to food sovereignty, ecological resilience, biodiversity conservation, climate justice and dignified rural livelihoods, and that women and youth are central to delivering it;

DETERMINED that the Congo Basin shall feed the Congo Basin, and from the Congo Basin feed Africa;

APPRECIATING the Government and people of the Republic of Cameroon for their hospitality;

DO HEREBY DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. CALLS TO DECISION-MAKERS

1. CALL upon Member States and the African Union Commission to write agroecology by name in the domestication of CAADP, so that National and Regional Agriculture and Food Systems Investment Plans carry explicit agroecology objectives, indicators and budget lines, with at least 30 per cent of allocations across the sectors that shape food systems dedicated to agroecology.

2. CALL FURTHER upon governments to adopt agroecology as the delivery route for Target 10 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, and to write it into Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and restoration programmes by the end of 2027.

3. INSIST that governments end the compartmentalisation of agricultural, land, forestry, environmental and trade policies, institutionalise national multi-stakeholder platforms as the bodies that coordinate and monitor agroecological policy, and establish national and regional agroecology observatories.

4. DEMAND that governments recognise and secure community and customary rights to land, forests and territories, integrate community micro-zoning into official land-use planning, grant community forest concessions, and apply free, prior and informed consent without exception in conservation, extractive, agro-industrial and infrastructure projects.

5. INSIST FURTHER that legislators and regional bodies protect farmer-managed seed systems in national law and in regional seed and plant variety regimes, including those harmonised through Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI) and neighbouring communities, and reject any provision that criminalises or restricts the saving, use, exchange and sale of farmer seed.

6. URGE technical and funding partners, including the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), Sustainable Congo Basin Forest Economies Program (SCBFEP), the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin and the African Development Bank, to open simplified direct-access windows so that at least 20 per cent of climate, biodiversity and conservation finance flowing into the basin reaches farmer organisations, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and to fund multi-year core support rather than short projects.

7. CALL FOR the establishment of a dedicated regional financing mechanism for agroecology, accessible directly to farmer organisations and communities, together with guarantee funds and village savings and credit associations, so that the transition no longer depends on project cycles.

8. DEMAND FURTHER that governments move proven agroecological models from pilot to national scale by funding agricultural advisory services, access to organic inputs and locally produced biofertilisers, territorial markets and public procurement of local agroecological produce, and by placing agroecology in school curricula and school canteens.

9. CALL upon ECCAS, CEMAC and COMIFAC to adopt a regional agroecology framework within the Common Agricultural Policy of Central Africa and the COMIFAC Convergence Plan, and to establish a standing channel with the EAC, ECOWAS, SADC and COMESA on the transboundary drivers of deforestation, including timber and charcoal trade, mining and infrastructure corridors, transhumance and displacement.

10. REQUEST the Pan-African Parliament to advance its Model Law on Food and Nutrition Security and its Model Law on Sustainable Soil Management with the Congo Basin as a case study, to develop a Model Law on African Food Systems, and national parliaments to table them; and CALL for the creation of a network of Central African parliamentarians for agroecology to align legislation across the basin.

B. COMMITMENTS TO CHANGED PRACTICE

11. COMMIT, as farmer organisations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities and consumer's, women's and youth movements, to organise around agroecology: to run farmer field schools, community seed banks and farmer-to-farmer training in our territories, to carry the My Food Is African campaign into our markets and households, to document and defend our own seed and food traditions, and to place women, youth and Indigenous members in at least half of our leadership positions.

12. UNDERTAKE, as civil society organisations and networks, to keep a permanent space for consultation across the basin, to share data and tools, to translate this Declaration and key agroecology materials into national and vernacular languages, to build the advocacy capacity of the organisations closest to the land rather than substituting for them, and to be accountable to the communities we serve.

13. RESOLVE, as governments and public institutions, to position agroecology in the Congo Basin, to convene civil society, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth in policy design and monitoring, to reorient extension services and agricultural training curricula towards agroecology, and to report publicly each year on what has been allocated and delivered.

14. COMMIT, as regional economic communities and regional institutions, to build our understanding of agroecology, develop actions to harmonise policy and promote cross border trade in agroecological produce across the basin and with neighbouring communities, and to share information on policy processes and on regional, continental and global negotiations.

15. UNDERTAKE, as researchers and academic institutions, to conduct participatory action research with farmers as co-researchers, to document and formalise traditional knowledge with the consent of its holders, to publish in accessible languages and formats, and to integrate agroecology into university and technical curricula.

16. COMMIT, as responsible private-sector actors, to source from agroecological producers on fair terms, to respect community land rights and consent, and to end practices that drive deforestation in our supply chains.

17. RESOLVE, as media and communication platforms, to report on agroecology, land rights and food sovereignty as matters of public interest, to work to a code of conduct for journalists and influencers engaged in agroecology, and to carry the voices of farmers, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth in their own words, including in vernacular languages.

C. IMPLEMENTATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND FOLLOW-UP

18. ADOPT the Congo Basin Regional Action Roadmap, which converts this Declaration into activities, responsible actors, timelines and indicators under the five pillars of COBCAI.

19. MANDATE AFSA to raise funding for the implementation of COBCAI till the regional coordination unit is strong and takes responsibility.

20. ESTABLISH OR STRENGTHEN a national agroecology platform and coordination unit in each of the six countries, supported by a regional coordination unit hosted by AFSA.

21. RESOLVE that COBCAI be reviewed based on the outcomes of this second Congo Basin Convening.

22. COMMIT to publish an annual Congo Basin agroecology review, tracking each call in Section A and each commitment in Section B, so that progress is measured by evidence and not by intention.

23. REQUEST AFSA to transmit this Declaration to the African Union Commission, ECCAS, CEMAC, ECOWAS, IGAD, COMIFAC, the EAC, SADC, COMESA, the Pan-African Parliament, the governments of the six Congo Basin countries and of neighbouring states, and financing institutions.

24. AGREE to report progress and to review the implementation of this Declaration, call by call and commitment by commitment, at the Third Congo Basin Convening.

DONE at Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon, on this 27th day of August 2026.



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