

Congo Basin Institute Participant Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in joining the Congo Basin Institute (“CBI”) as a collaborating participant (“Participant”). CBI expands on the existing resources and infrastructure of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) campus to create a regional nexus for interdisciplinary research, education, training and technology development. CBI’s activities are focused on critical issues facing the Congo Basin with implications for both the developing and developed world: climate change, food and water security, biodiversity, and human and animal health. With the ultimate plan of a green-designed campus as its foundation, the CBI is a unique and scalable model that envisions long-term capacity building, sustainability, and finding practical solutions to critical issues facing the region.

Current CBI facilities include:

Main Campus in Yaoundé, Cameroon

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| • A molecular genetics laboratory | • Plant, soil and water analytical lab |
| • Plant tissue culture laboratory | • Lodging |
| • Remote GIS/remote sensing research and training facility | • Entomology and pathology laboratories with insectaries, isolation room, climate control incubators, and screenhouses |

Bouamir Field Camp in the Dja Biosphere Reserve, East Cameroon

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| • Research, kitchen, and dining tents | • Latrines and showers |
| • Sleeping platforms | • Solar-generated electricity |

The Bouamir Field Camp is supported by the Somalomo Research Station, which offers lodging, a logistics hub, and a research site for human-forest interaction. CBI is actively working to expand and enhance the available research facilities.

Partnering with CBI

CBI welcomes universities, research institutes, non-profit organizations, government entities, foundations, multilateral organizations, and corporations with aligned interests to become members of CBI through the Participant Agreement process.

Participant benefits include:

- Preferential use of CBI research and lodging facilities and other support
- Membership on the Advisory Council and on project specific working groups
- Logistical support for fieldwork and assistance with research and export permits
- Access to networks of researchers for developing new collaborative research projects
- Access to the science expertise of IITA, the largest international research center in sub-Saharan Africa with direct access to over 20 countries in the continent
- Lecture and conference facilities for workshops and teaching
- Acknowledgement as a participant on CBI communications and Invitations to events

The CBI seeks Participants who share our commitment to collaborative research and capacity building in the Congo Basin. We ask that our Participants make good faith efforts to conduct research and meetings at CBI facilities, and to encourage others to do so as well. **Contributions of in-kind or fee-based support to the CBI are critical to build the success of the CBI as a leading research and educational facility. While the CBI expects that contributions by Participants will vary, the CBI requires, at a minimum, some combination of active support and productive use of, or interaction with, the CBI. Potential partnerships are discussed and assessed by the CBI Review and Joint Steering Committees.**

Following are examples of activities that the CBI would expect of its Participants. **An expectation is that new Participants will fulfill one or more of the following:**

- 1) Actively promote and use CBI as a base for a specified research or conservation project(s) led by a faculty member or senior scientist. This might include referring university faculty and graduate students and/or individuals from NGOs, governmental agencies, or foundations to use CBI facilities. All participants are encouraged to incorporate African researchers into projects, and to invest in strengthening research teams in Africa.
- 2) Sponsor and organize classes or workshops at CBI. This could include distance-learning courses that use CBI facilities or conducting field classes at CBI. Participant agreements should specify the level of expected use of CBI facilities (*e.g.* Two anticipated 10 person, three day workshops a year.)
- 3) Contribute the use of local facilities (*e.g.*, classrooms, lecture halls, labs or other physical facilities) or materials to supplement a proposed class or workshop on an agreed upon time basis to assist CBI's programming or organizational mission. Participant agreements should specify the expected level of availability of local facilities (*e.g.* A 50 person lecture hall and two 20 person class rooms will be available for CBI use, pending availability).
- 4) Establish and maintain an office at CBI for education, research or conservation-based activities.
- 5) Assist in development and fundraising activities to build CBI. This may include fundraising for substantive projects conducted in partnership with CBI that address CBI's four pillars of climate change, biodiversity, food and water security, and human and animal health. Draft Participant Agreements that specify particular collaborative funding opportunities are welcome.
- 6) Pay an annual fee to the CBI to help defray ongoing costs. Participant agreements should specify the annual contribution (*e.g.* \$10,000/year).

ILLUSTRATIVE CBI PROJECT

Sustainable Ebony Production: With support from Bob Taylor of Taylor Guitars, CBI is researching the ecological and socio-economic aspects of ebony production, with the ultimate goal of building a sustainable ebony production model. The project includes researchers from CBI members IITA, UCLA, and IBAY-HIES.

We thank you for your interest in the CBI and look forward to working with you. To explore the possibility of becoming a CBI Participant, please contact Virginia Zaunbrecher, UCLA, zaunbrecher@ucla.edu.