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Corporate commitments at the One Forest Summit

At the One Forest Summit, businesses announced the following commitments and partnerships:

SouthBridge, a Pan-African advisory and investment company, announced a €2 billion fund for restoration and reforestation at COP27, in partnership with **Eurazeo**. At the One Forest Summit, SouthBridge and Eurazeo set out the schedule for the first projects that will be announced in the run-up to COP28 and expressed interest in coordinating this fund with the PCP country approach.

Eramet and its Gabonese subsidiary Comilog presented Biomine, their project to develop bio-reducers to replace the coke currently used as a reducer in their metallurgical furnaces. The company is also committed to a forest-planting programme to contribute to the development of a forest economy in Gabon's Haut-Ogooué region.

Touton, a major trader in cocoa and other tropical agricultural commodities involved in sustainable projects, and **Inarix**, a start-up developing an innovative technology using artificial intelligence and biometric recognition by smartphone, have formed a partnership to improve traceability in the cocoa and coffee industry. Inarix is now capable of delivering quality analysis after harvest via a smartphone, based on a mere photograph of beans, as well as certain key traceability criteria such as geographical origin.

By determining the zone of origin of a batch of commodities based on a photograph, Inarix could, for example, identify the produce of protected areas and thus fight deforestation.

Touton has committed to strong partnerships with other start-ups through the funding of pilot projects and prototypes and by incorporating them into its value chains, such as **NetZero**, which works on pyrolysis of tropical biomass in Cameroon and Brazil to generate biochar, which is then applied to soils to sequester carbon and generate high-quality credits.

The start-up **Kermap**, a Greentech Innovation laureate, announced the launch of its Nimbo project that will offer a digital twin for almost-real-time Earth observation. Nimbo will provide new tools that are both functional and effective in order to facilitate environmental monitoring and ensure reliability. It will contribute to ongoing efforts to improve control and sustainable management of forests. The project will also provide precious data for the prevention of future pandemics, with an approach combining environmental, animal and human health.

Rougier, a company specialized in local production, processing and sale of logs, sawn timber and plywood that operates almost 900,000 hectares of FSC-certified forest concessions in Gabon and will celebrate its centenary in 2023, signed a strategic agreement with **Flying Whales**, an innovative company developing a solution for transport of wood in forests using airships, with no footprint on the ground and limited carbon emissions in flight. This agreement aims to study applications of the Flying Whales technology and its benefits for the forest sector, in terms of operability, yield and security, as well as reducing carbon intensity and logistical pressure on ecosystems. The positive effects of this new airship-based transport system could include stimulation of local economies, training, employment and service opportunities, and improved autonomy and quality of life, as well as a long-term boost to revenue diversification thanks to relations with this industry.

Flying Whales also signed a strategic agreement with the **GSEZ** (Gabon Special Economic Zone), a public-private partnership between the Gabonese government and **Arise IIP**, a company specialized in the design, financing, construction and management of cutting-edge infrastructure in Africa, which operates in a dozen African countries. The agreement aims to lay the foundations for the installation of Flying Whales operational sites in Gabon. It will provide Gabon with a country-wide air transport service for goods all year round. Other applications with considerable added value will also be addressed, such as deployment of the "Flying Care" air-transported mobile hospital, enabling pooling of a complete hospital facility in areas where they are lacking. These developments will aim to cut isolation and foster inclusion and supply availability for local communities while preserving Gabon's exceptional natural capital: 88% of the country is covered by forests and wetlands.

Arise IIP committed to develop wood energy plantations in Gabon (3,000 ha), DRC (3,000 ha), Togo (2,000 ha), the Congo (3,000 ha) and Benin (3,000 ha) and develop two new training centres in partnership with local governments (in addition to existing ones in Benin and Togo). The company is launching a \$100-million fund to support SMEs, as well as roadshows in France, Germany and Italy from April to encourage European SMEs to invest in sustainable industrialization and local processing of natural resources. Arise IIP will sign an MoU with **Okala** to help monitor biodiversity in Gabon, 80% financed by ATIF, a joint stakeholder in Arise. Arise invests in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in industrial zones for wood processing and agriculture. The company will also adopt CarbonCure technology in industrial estates.

Cameroon's **Conseil Interprofessionnel du Cacao et du Café (CICC, cocoa and coffee trade council)** presented its partnership with the French association "**Les Chocolatiers Engagés**", which pays cocoa producers a fairly high price, negotiated and mutually agreed on at the beginning of each cocoa production season.

This commitment is in line with the French Initiative for Sustainable Cocoa (**IFCD**), launched in 2021, the objective of which is threefold: economic, social and environmental. The entire French sector committed to improving the income of cocoa farmers and of their families, so that they may have a decent income, to bring an end to supplies from deforestation, and to fight against forced labour and child labour. The CICC sets up centres of excellence and conducts a programme called New Generation through which hundreds of young people, both boys and girls, have begun working in cocoa farming for the long term. The CICC and Les Chocolatiers Engagés lead cooperatives that produce sustainable, ethical cocoa, with a particular focus on forest preservation.

The **French cosmetics industry** announced that it would allocate more than €500,000 to compile a "cosmetopoeia" on plants sourced in the Congo forest basin (Central Africa). This financing, drawn from the **Cosmetic Valley** endowment fund, will enable grants to be allocated in countries to set up traineeships, doctorate and post-doctorate programmes. This commitment by the French cosmetics industry aims to enable study and classification by local stakeholders of the plant genetic resources found in the forest and their traditional uses for skin and hair protection and beauty.

Valgo, the leading French company in clean-up and remediation of polluted sites and soil, presented the results of a comprehensive study at Libreville, equivalent to a declaration of intent, carried out as part of a partnership between Gabon and France for the remediation of the Mindoubé rubbish tip. The project involves the remediation of the Mindoubé tip to convert it into a high-quality, exemplary ecological area, to be used by local communities. The study will enable the Gabonese authorities to launch a general-interest environmental project for the health of local communities and the revitalization of the environment.