In forest policy domain, a constellation of actors has been promoting policy reforms and governance change since the early 1990s. Formally, the majority of these changes claimed to promote the Brundtland Report and Rio world summit paradigms for sustainable development and rational use of natural resources. Informally, the dynamics of forest governance in areas of limited statehood, like in Congo basin countries, is also an opportunity for policy entrepreneurs to extend their influence while defending their interests. In such contexts, the resolution of the problem at stakes is often embedded in status quos or even worse with change dynamics becoming more a matter of discourses and opportunism than real motivation to transform the society toward sustainability. An example of this situation is given by the paradox of forest destruction in the Congo basin. Despite the profusion of national and international regulations promoting sustainable forest management and forest conservation in Congo basin countries, deforestation and biodiversity loss are still increasing. This paper thus aims at addressing this paradox by focusing on the role of cooperation agencies in the governance of the Congo basin forests. The central question is that of knowing whether cooperation agencies are builders or wreckers of forest governance in Congo basin. To answer this question, we used a qualitative analysis rooted on the ‘policy entrepreneur’ theoretical framework. The fieldwork was conducted at both cooperation agencies headquarters and Sustainable Development Goals implementation arenas in Bonn/Germany, Yaoundé/Cameroon and Brazzaville/Congo from 2012 to 2017. As data collection tools, we used network-mapping, experts’ interviews, participant observations and documents review leading to a bunch of observations. Indeed, our research reveals that cooperation agencies play a dominant role in the governance of Congo basin forests because of their incentive-based initiatives. However, these actors seem as being more wreckers than builders of Congo basin forest sustainable management. Due to the impact of their ‘overhead politics’, cooperation agencies switch their mandate of facilitators with that of fundraisers vis-à-vis recipient state bureaucracies and related institutions. Hence the interest of calling for a reframing of institutions roles in Congo basin forests governance if any sustainability is expected there.