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République Démocratique du Congo , Ministère de l'Environnement, Conservation de la Nature et Tourisme

*Global expert workshop on REDD-plus Biodiversity
Benefits, Nairobi, Kenya, 20-23 September 2010*

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P R O G R A M M E



National experience with multiple benefits

National structure for REDD planning:

- National REDD Committee
- Interministerial Committee
- National REDD Coordination (CN-REDD)
- R-PP submitted and approved in March, implementation phase has started
- Biodiversity experts will be involved through the Division des Services Environnementaux and Pôle Intégré d'Excellence (University and multistakeholder national network)
- Indigenous and local communities involved through REDD pilot projects (8 projects initiated by the CN-REDD and a range of other projects actively cooperating with the CN-REDD)

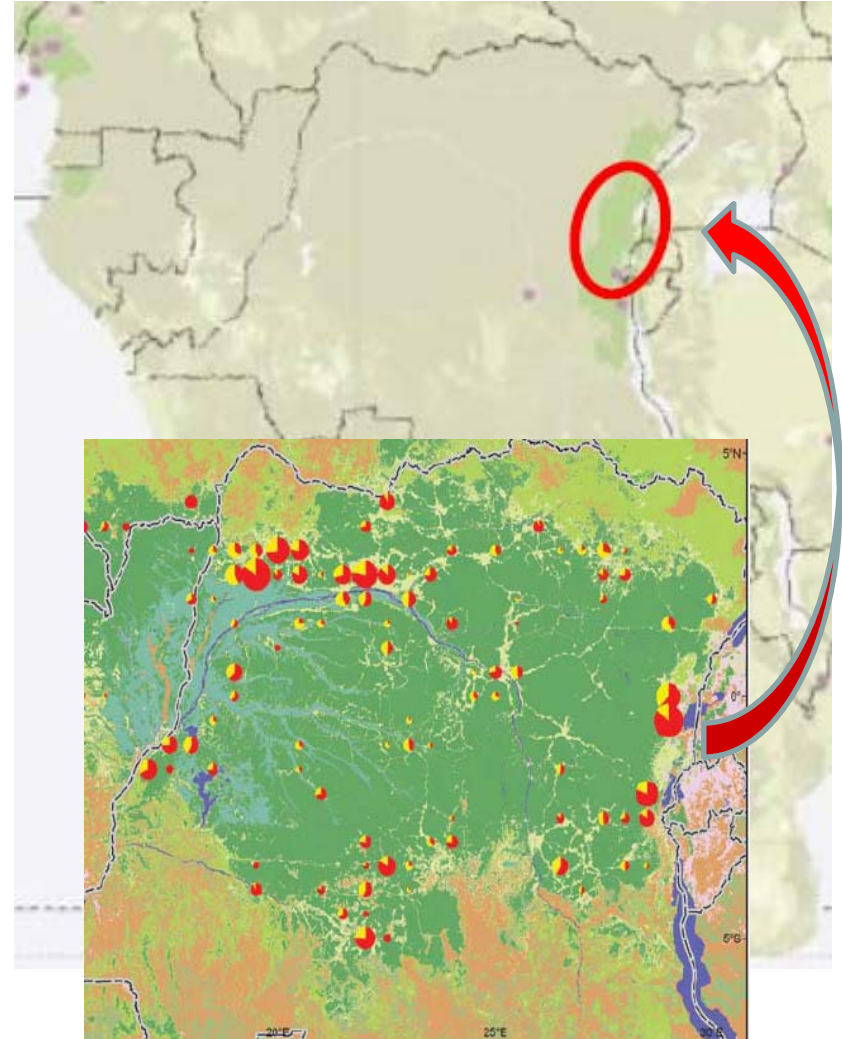
Carbon and Biodiversity in DRC



DRC forests store 28 billions tonnes of carbon (État des forêts 2008) and are one of the most biodiverse forests in the world.

This carbon stock is located mostly in the dense humid forest of the « Cuvette Centrale » which is facing deforestation pressure all around its edges

The eastern edge of the « Cuvette » (Kivus, Northern Katanga and Ituri) is facing the highest deforestation rate in the country and is one of the most biodiverse areas in the world.

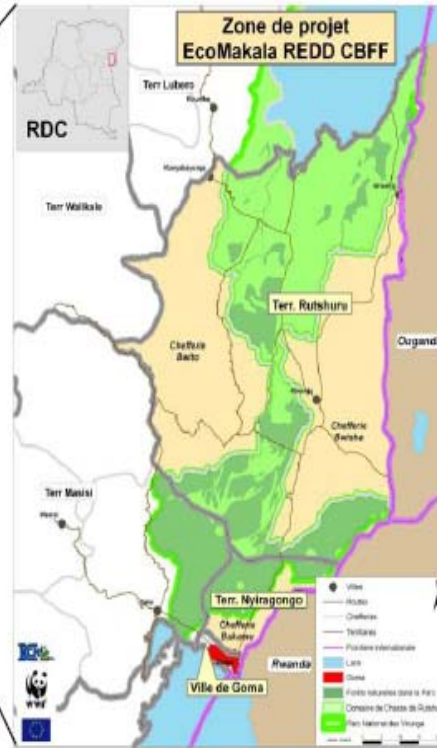
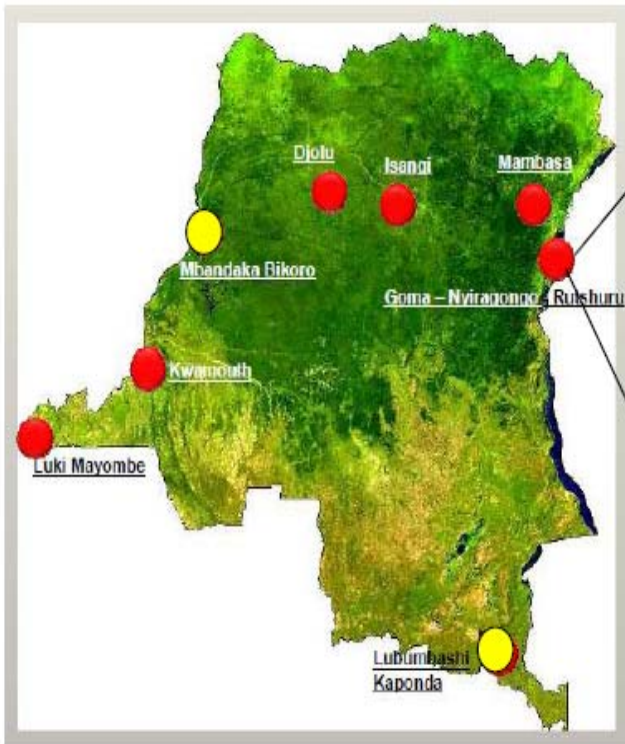


Voluntary carbon market experiences



- Ibi Bateke carbon sink (Novacel with BioCf and Orbeo) first A/R CDM in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Écomakala project in Nord Kivu (WWF with partners)
- Tayna Reserve project in Nord-Kivu (Conservation International with Walt Disney)
- Mai Ndombe Conservation Concession (Ecosystem Restoration Associates with Forest Carbon Group)
- A number of other initiatives in development (15 projects in total) actively engaged in coordinating with the National REDD process.
- A registry of all initiatives in development (aim: open online access early 2011).

REDD Registry for project/initiatives online early 2011



Nom du Projet REDD	Projet Pilote REDD géographiquement intègre Ecomakala
Numero d'enregistrement auprès du Ministère de l'Environnement	ECN024458
Porteur du projet	Institutions et coordonnées
Partenaires du projet	Institutions et coordonnées
Pays d'origine du Porteur et des Partenaires	Belgique
Pays d'origine des investissements (si privés)	
Nom du validateur	
partenaires	WWF, UN-Habitat, ONFI

*Online interface to promote transparency, link-up project developers with sources of finance, avoid double counting (carbon), **establish priority areas for action (link with biodiversity),***



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National experience with local and indigenous community participation and benefits

- Civil society is organized around the *Groupe de Travail Climat REDD (GTCR)* a network of over 500 NGOs and church groups in over 45 dioceses also represented in the National REDD Committee (30% of committee members)
- Information dissemination and consultation a challenge in DRC given lack of infrastructure. **National radio network for REDD a priority**
- Concerns related to respect for traditional knowledge and support for customary use of biodiversity are reflected in REDD planning through the development of a framework to maximize socio-environmental benefits including:
 - Strategic Environmental and Social Impact Assessment of REDD (SESA)
 - A system to MRV socio-environmental impacts of REDD+ projects and initiatives
 - The creation of a Environmental Services Division within Ministry of Environment in charge of developing a national policy for ES as well as projects to help value traditional knowledge (e.g. Bioversity International, BDA, etc.)



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Tools at national level

DRC has not completed the National Ecological Gap analysis under the CBD. So far this is not considered in REDD planning. Will be based on other analytical work (ICCN and Regional work) .

Indeed the DRC will develop a tool (model) to support decision making on REDD as well as general land use planning at national level. This tool will focus on maximizing multiple benefits of REDD focusing mainly on economic development potential, priority investment in infrastructure and will integrate biodiversity concerns in order to support decision on future PA sites. (ToRs should be ready by the end of the year, 2 year development phase is foreseen).

Information concerning biodiversity will be managed and centralized at a regional level through the OFAC database which will also host the REDD registry.



Main opportunities and challenges

High level of support for Biodiversity Conservation :

- **Article 14 (Code Forestier of 2002)** : « *Protected Areas [forêts classées] must represent at least 15 % of the total area of the national territory.*
- Presidential pledge to reach this objective (Ordonnance to be ratified)

Low level of capacity to put in place an effective protected area system and high implementation costs :

- Very poor , post conflict, immense territory to cover with very high transportation and communications costs .

Main obstacles for achieving multiple benefits:

- Lack of information , basic knowledge and awareness but also lack of consolidation of necessary data to inform planning, basic country map, vegetation maps, forest inventories, biodiversity inventories (Collaboration between the CN-REDD/DIAF/FAO/JICA/OFAC/OSFAC-CARPE/WRI may help in this regard)
- Training needed for government officials at the DSE as well as counterparts in the water and health sectors to better understand what role policy can play in promoting ES.
- Training of local communities in the valuing of environmental services through concrete projects (e.g. eco-entrepreneurs for medicinal plants, aphrodisiac , etc.)

• **Lessons learned:** basic community organization supported by a favorable land tenure framework for project development is needed. In this regard recent developments towards decentralization are encouraging, Code Agricole provides for Comité Locaux de développement (CLD) and a Community Forest decree is under review at the Prime Ministerial Level.



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Regional collaboration for multiple benefits

International exchange workshop on REDD pilot experiences will be held in Kinshasa 15-20 November

Discussions for South-South Collaboration with Brazil (FAS) are already underway. Exchange visits should start next year.

Regional collaboration on REDD-plus with COMIFAC includes

- The creation of a regional registry of REDD+ projects and Initiatives to be held at OFAC www.observatoire-comifac.net (DRC taking the lead with a fully operational registry in early 2011)
- International support should focus on integrating their ongoing or planned initiatives into the REDD process in DRC so as to maximize synergies.



Merci!
Botondi!
Ntondele!
Tuasakidila!
Aksanti!

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Priority Areas for Conservation in the Congo Basin (source: ESRI, WWF-US, MODIS, UMD, SDSU)

