



WWF

REPORT

INT

2012



REDD+ FOR PEOPLE & NATURE

Case study of an integrated approach to REDD+ readiness in Mai-Ndombe, Democratic Republic of Congo



REPUBLIQUE
DEMOCRATIQUE
DU CONGO

Ministère de l'Environnement,
Conservation de la Nature et Tourisme

A close-up photograph of tree bark, showing a rough, textured surface with various shades of brown and grey. The bark has deep vertical grooves and horizontal fissures, giving it a complex, organic appearance. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the bark.

REDD+ FOR PEOPLE & NATURE

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PREFACE

Its purpose is to present and share experiences, lessons learned and stakeholder testimonies in a non-technical and user-friendly way that builds the capacity of REDD+ practitioners around the globe at local, national and international levels to inform REDD+ policy decisions and increase REDD+ readiness and implementation. It is not intended to represent all REDD+ efforts in the DRC.

These experiences and lessons learned also make the link between the local and the global. They highlight the level of ambition and commitment that exists at the local level, so that global policymakers can keep pace and meet this demand with their own ambition and commitment.

WWF would like to acknowledge the support and partnership of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), without which this important work would not have been possible. In addition, WWF would like to acknowledge its key partners in the DRC for their support and determination in relation to making REDD+ a success: AMAR, Avocat vert, Bandundu provincial administration, CEDEN, Civil Society Technical Climate Working Group for the DRC, DGPA, DRC Indigenous People Network, Dynamic for Indigenous People Group, Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, Groupe de Travail Climat REDD, GTF, L'Agence Française de Développement German Development Bank, Massive Actions for Rural Development, Mbou Mon Tour, Novacel, Ntombo Kolo, OCEAN, REDD National Coordination office of the DRC, REPALEF, RRN, SEBO, Sodef, Technical Forest Working Group, Great Apes of Congo Centre, Union for the Development of Ekonda Minorities, United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, World Bank, USAID and especially the territory administration and communities who were willing to engage.

WWF would also like to thank those who contributed to the development and production of this publication: Blese Kalame Fobissie, Bruce Cabarle, Bruno Guay, Bruno Hegel, Carla Ngoyi, Chief Mambe Ngoni, Christian Mpassi, Clement Vangu Lutete, Elaine Pura, Etienne Benoit, Hermine Kleymann, Jean-Jacques Mambuta, Jean Mobuli, Jenny Guzman, Jolly Sassa Kiuka, Jostein Lindland, Leon Kanu Mbiz, Lesli Ouarzazi, Libby Garbis, Marc Rodriguez, Naikoa Aguilar-Amuchastegui, Patrick Onotamba Kondjo, Paul Chatterton, Peter Karanja, Raoul Kamanda Mangamfu, Raymond Lumbuenamo, Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, Vincent Kasulu and the WWF Malebo research centre team.

This publication is a case study of REDD+ preparation activities and efforts undertaken by WWF and its partners in the Mai-Ndombe region of the DRC.

WWF also gratefully acknowledges the support of the Government of Norway, through a grant administered by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), to the WWF REDD+ activities described in this publication. The views expressed herein are not intended to reflect the policy views of either Norad or the Government of Norway, or their affiliates.

ACRONYMS

AMAR: Massive Actions for Rural Development
CN-REDD: REDD National Coordination, within the MECNT
DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo
ER-PIN: Emissions Reductions Programme Idea Note
FCPF: Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FIP: Forest Investment Programme
FPIC: Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GTCR: REDD+ Civil society network in DRC
IPLCs: indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
MECNT: Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism of the DRC
MRV: Measurement, Reporting and Verification
Norad: Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
PES: Payment for Environmental Services
REDD+: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries; also includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries
REPALEF: Indigenous Peoples Network in DRC
UN-REDD: United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
WWF: Global conservation organization Worldwide Fund for Nature (formerly known as the World Wildlife Fund)
ZNDD: Zero Net Deforestation and Forest Degradation



INTRODUCTION FOREST AND CLIMATE

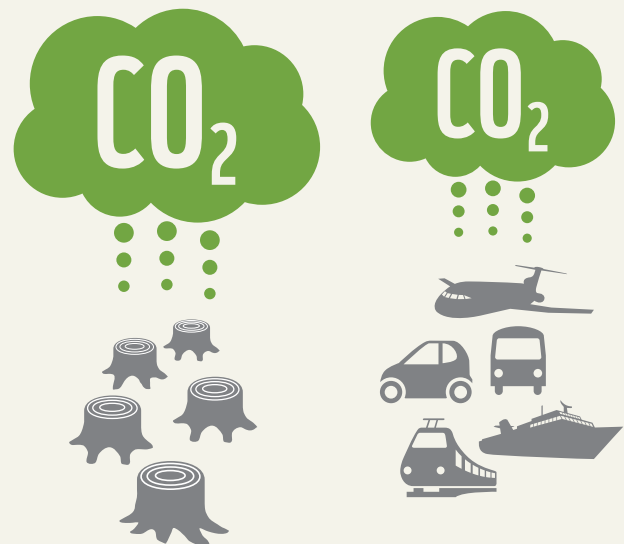
Deforestation and forest degradation drive climate change and climate change in turn can damage forests. With more than 1.6 billion people around the world supported by forests and 300 million people living in forests, the impacts of climate change and deforestation can devastate human communities.

Scientists now agree that **up to 20% of global carbon emissions are caused by deforestation and forest degradation**. Why? Because trees take in CO₂, then release the oxygen and store the carbon. When they are cut down they release this carbon – and when their quality is reduced, their ability to store carbon is reduced.

What does this 20% of global carbon emissions equate to? It is more than the total of carbon emissions from the entire global transport sector – all the automobiles, trucks, trains, boats, aircraft, etc. in the world.

For this reason, conserving forests is one of the most immediate and effective ways to fight climate change on a large scale. In recognizing this, the global community has identified **the Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)**, along with the **conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+)**, as the most efficient mechanism to do so.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats humankind has known, and forests play an important role in the cycle.



**DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION
REPRESENTS UP TO 20% OF GLOBAL
ANTHROPOGENIC CO2 EMISSIONS, MORE THAN
THE ENTIRE GLOBAL TRANSPORT SECTOR
(WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR 13%)**

REDD+ AIMS TO MAKE TROPICAL FORESTS MORE VALUABLE STANDING THAN CUT DOWN



“For us, REDD+ is a good joint effort between developed countries and developing countries that have the necessary resources but lack the funding to implement the process.” Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, National REDD+ Coordinator for the DRC MECNT

When done right, in a way that safeguards the environment and the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples, REDD+ can benefit not only the climate but also biodiversity and local livelihoods. One of the benefits of REDD+ is the potential financial opportunity that it entails. In simple terms, the REDD+ financial process is designed to take in funds from developing countries that produce carbon emissions, and to pay these funds out to forest countries that use their forests to store carbon emissions. This in turn provides financial incentives to developing countries to stop cutting down forests so they can reduce carbon emissions and maintain water supply, soil protection, sustenance, biodiversity, economic productivity and indigenous territories. Ultimately, REDD+ has the potential to make forests worth more standing than cut down.

While there is still work to be done at the global policy level to put a formal REDD+ mechanism in place, today, countries like the DRC and conservation groups like WWF are partnering at the local level to lay the groundwork for REDD+ to become a reality, and for people and nature to benefit from its potential.

“Climate change is a very important issue for the government of Norway and REDD+ is perceived as one of the best ways to avoid climate change.”

Jostein Lindland, Norwegian Embassy Regional Counselor on Forest and Climate Change



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is located in Central Africa and is the second largest country on the continent after Algeria. With an area of 2.3 million square kilometers, it is larger than the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Netherlands and Austria – combined.



The DRC is one of the six countries that form the Congo Basin – one of the most important areas of biodiversity on earth, and the second largest tropical rainforest in the world. Great expanses of primary forest still exist in the Congo Basin – giving it its name of the Green Heart of Africa. The DRC contains 60% of the forests of the Congo Basin and has approximately 1.5 million square kilometers of forest cover.

With only 6% of Congolese having access to electricity, 94% of the DRC's 71 million inhabitants – nearly 67 million people – depend on the forest as an energy source for firewood and charcoal. Of these, the livelihoods of 40 million people depend directly on the forests: family subsistence farming, timber for homes and firewood/charcoal for cooking and heating. This has put a significant strain on the country's forests and has contributed to an average deforestation rate of 350,000 hectares per year – one of the highest in the world.



KEY DEFORESTATION DRIVERS IN THE DRC



The DRC is among the top 10 countries in the world in terms of forest cover loss, with an estimated annual deforestation rate of 350,000 hectares a year over the period 2000-2010. This deforestation is concentrated in “hotspots” located around the country’s large cities, as well as in the densely populated areas on the edge of the expansive forest massif of the central basin.

Deforestation in the DRC has rarely had only one direct cause: there is a strong interaction between logging, agriculture, fuel wood and bush fires. Household-scale slash-and-burn agriculture and exploitation of wood for fuel (including charcoal) and timber appear to be the major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the country.

Other indirect drivers of deforestation exist, including: lack of governance, lack of security and land tenure, land degradation, lack of viable alternatives, the need for infrastructural development, high informal exploitation of natural resources (80%), low technical capacity, and population growth.



THE DRC AND REDD+

- Livelihood value to the nation's people living mostly a subsistence lifestyle vs. economic value as a commercial resource
- Infrastructural development needs of the nation vs. the need for conservation of land and resources
- High-stakes value of forests as potential carbon stores vs. the potentially damaging effects of carbon emissions from deforestation on both the country and the world
- Commercial value of logged forests vs. impacts of forest loss on watersheds and long-term hydroelectricity production.

In response, the Government of the DRC is looking towards REDD+ as a solution to maintain the fullest range of values within its forests, such as those related to economic productivity, energy and sustenance, while also conserving biodiversity and reducing harmful carbon emissions.

As part of this engagement, the Government has shown strong political will and taken several key steps since 2009:

- Prime Minister's Decree establishing a framework for REDD+
- REDD+ National Committee established – 14 members, seven from government and seven from civil society
- Inter-ministerial REDD+ Committee established
- National REDD+ Coordination (CN-REDD+) – national operational arm of REDD+ established under the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism (MECNT)
- Three-phased approach to REDD+ mapped out:
 - Preparation – Building the technical, governance and financial capacity to deliver REDD+
 - Demonstration - Investing in the testing of REDD+ readiness capacity through large-scale demonstration projects
 - Implementation – Launching a fully functional carbon market-based REDD+ mechanism

The DRC is now faced with increasingly competing uses of its forest resources:



THE DRC HAS BEEN FIRMLY ENGAGED ON REDD+ SINCE 2009, AND SEES REDD+ AS A “TRANSFORMATIONAL” GREEN DEVELOPMENT TOOL THAT WILL ENABLE THE NATION’S ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO GROW WHILE STILL CONSERVING THE FINANCIAL, BIODIVERSITY AND LIVELIHOOD VALUE OF ITS FORESTS.



The REDD+ preparation phase of the DRC's efforts currently falls under the leadership of the MECNT and is carried out in partnership with the United Nations REDD programme (UN-REDD) and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) managed by the World Bank. CN-REDD, an agency of the MECNT, and the Inter-ministerial REDD+ Committee ensure inter- and multi-sectoral coordination and participation.



“The main objective of the DRC Government is to reduce poverty – to increase the national income and

enable the equitable distribution of resources. REDD+ is a tool that can help us put in place a transformational goal in a way that creates wealth for the country.” Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, National REDD+ Coordinator for the DRC MECNT

**REDD+ OFFERS
FRESH INCENTIVE
FOR MANAGING
FORESTS TO REDUCE
CARBON EMISSIONS
AND TO MAINTAIN
THE FULLEST RANGE
OF VALUES SUCH
AS BIODIVERSITY,
WATER SUPPLY,
SOIL PROTECTION,
ECONOMIC
PRODUCTIVITY,
SUSTENANCE
AND INDIGENOUS
TERRITORIES**







WWF AND REDD+

The global conservation organization WWF is actively involved in promoting REDD+ as an effective solution to address key conservation issues – including forest conservation, biodiversity and climate change – while at the same time promoting the livelihoods of people who depend on forests.

WWF also supports the **REDD+ Five Guiding Principles**, which ensure that, as part of the REDD+ process, the following key issues are addressed: climate, biodiversity, livelihoods, rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), and fair and effective funding.

WWF's REDD+ activities in the DRC have been coordinated locally by specialists with the WWF–DRC team, with additional technical and strategic support provided by global experts with the organization's international Forest and Climate Initiative. Significant funding for WWF's REDD+ projects is provided by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) as part of the Norwegian Climate and Forest Initiative.

WWF has identified the DRC as a priority REDD+ area, given the country's vast forest areas that are under increasing threat yet have the potential to be significant carbon stores.

WWF is working with governments of forest countries and on the ground with local communities to build capacity and ensure programmes, standards, approaches and technologies for REDD+ produce real and verifiable emissions reductions while benefiting biodiversity and people's well-being.

In the DRC, WWF-DRC is working closely with the government to see how local community and territory management plans can be effectively oriented to ZNDD.

WWF advocates for zero net deforestation and forest degradation (ZNDD) – and sees REDD+ as a mechanism to achieve this goal.



WHAT IS ZERO NET DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION?

WWF defines ZNDD as no net forest loss through deforestation and no net decline in forest quality through degradation. ZNDD provides some flexibility: it is not quite the same as no forest clearing anywhere, under any circumstances. For instance, it recognizes people's right to clear some forests for agriculture, or the value in occasionally “trading off” degraded forests to free up other land to restore important biological corridors, provided that biodiversity values and net quantity and quality of forests are maintained.

REDD+ FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

REDD+ offers a unique opportunity to address forest loss and forest degradation while benefitting the planet's climate, biodiversity and people. These five principles set a global benchmark for REDD+ success:



1. CLIMATE REDD+ demonstrably contributes to greenhouse gas emission reductions with national goals working toward a global objective.

2. BIODIVERSITY REDD+ maintains and/or enhances forest biodiversity and ecosystem services.



3. LIVELIHOODS REDD+ contributes to sustainable and equitable development by strengthening the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities.



4. RIGHTS

REDD+ recognizes and respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.



5. FAIR AND EFFECTIVE FUNDING.

REDD+ mobilizes immediate, adequate and predictable resources for action in priority forest areas in an equitable, transparent, participatory and coordinated manner.



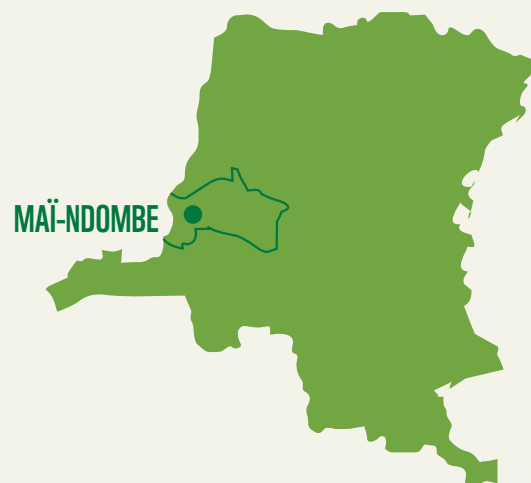
REDD+ PREPARATION IN THE DRC THE MAÏ-NDOMBE PROJECT

WWF has been working with the Government of the DRC, international organizations and local partners to implement the country's **preparation phase of REDD+**, focusing on the Maï-Ndombe region of the country.

Maï-Ndombe is a 12 million hectare landscape north-east of the nation's capital of Kinshasa, and a province under the country's new constitution. It is covered with tropical moist forest and gallery forest, which is critical habitat for the endangered bonobo (*Pan paniscus*), a great ape species found wild nowhere else on Earth. These forests are interspersed with savannahs and swamp forests – some of which are on soils with substantial depths of peat.

In Maï-Ndombe, slash-and-burn agriculture, cattle ranging, firewood collection and charcoal production for local and regional markets are impacting the forests. This includes the heavy pressure created by the demands of the eight million inhabitants of the DRC's capital, Kinshasa, which Maï-Ndombe supplies with fuel wood and agricultural products.

By contrast, the population density of Maï-Ndombe is low, with few large villages or towns. Local residents practice traditional lifestyles based on hunting, fishing and collecting non-timber forest products.



PROJECT SUMMARY

The project was developed using an **integrated approach** – bringing together government, community, civil society organizations and the private sector; and working across local, sub-national and national levels – with a view to achieving reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation at the **national level** by addressing the direct and underlying causes of deforestation linked to rural poverty and lack of governance, and to scale this up and work across multiple **jurisdictions** for even greater impact.

At the local level, the Maï-Ndombe REDD+ project started as a capacity-building exercise to empower indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) to participate effectively in the REDD+ process in a way that recognizes and addresses their rights. This has involved:

- Micro-zoning of community land for improving land tenure
- Strengthening local governance
- Empowering local communities
- Designing possible approaches to benefit sharing.

It then evolved by linking local priorities, and feeding into the national REDD+ strategy by:

- Promoting and achieving national validation of methodological tools for Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Becoming a key driver of the national DRC REDD+ process by providing resources and technical expertise and influencing international donors
- Supporting the national communications strategy on climate change.
- Developing social and environmental safeguards
- Elaborating the participative micro zoning process
- Testing a MRV community methodology
- Enabling part of the Maï-Ndombe area to be selected as a key site for the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) and Emissions Reductions Programme Idea Note (ER-PIN) investment.

The Maï-Ndombe REDD+ project has paved the way for REDD+ in the DRC, by building up the capacities needed to deliver REDD+, in transformational ways.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT,
OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS,
THE EXPANDED PROJECT
WILL DIRECTLY ENGAGE
OVER 300,000 HOUSEHOLDS
ACROSS 12 MILLION HECTARES
– AND SUSTAINABLY HALVE
THE DEFORESTATION RATE,
REDUCING ASSOCIATED
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
BY OVER 60 MILLION TONNES
OF CO2 EQUIVALENT, WHILE
GENERATING \$70 MILLION IN
REDD+ FINANCING





WWF AND THE MAÏ-NDOMBE PROJECT

WWF has engaged with government and local communities from the start of the Maï-Ndombe project to ensure a participatory process and shared vision for the initiative.

WWF identified three main objectives for its project work:

- Ensure IPLCs participate effectively and that their rights are addressed by REDD+ initiatives in ways that contribute to poverty reduction and generate broader lessons and methodologies to inform REDD+ policy at national and international levels
- Demonstrate pathways to ZNDD in Maï-Ndombe that achieve effective management of carbon stocks and other forest conservation values, deliver benefits to IPLCs and influence the development of national REDD+ strategies and architecture
- Influence international and national commitments, funding arrangements and institutions for REDD+ to ensure recognition of biodiversity conservation and local community development

These three objectives are built on the principle of using REDD+ as an implementation tool for a pro-poor development policy, relying strongly on private–public partnerships and land use management – with the aim of addressing the direct and underlying causes of deforestation connected with rural poverty and lack of governance.



WE NEED TO PUT COMMUNITIES AT THE HEART OF THE REDD+ PROCESS IN DRC. THE MAIN DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION ARE LINKED TO COMMUNITIES BECAUSE OF THEIR DEPENDENCE ON FOREST RESOURCES TO SURVIVE DAY TO DAY. THIS PROJECT RECOGNIZES THE RIGHTS OF COMMUNITIES AND GIVES THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE AND MANAGE THEIR OWN RESOURCES.” BRUNO PERODEAU, WWF-DRC FOREST PROGRAMME MANAGER

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

An integrated and inclusive approach has been one of the pillars of Mai-Ndombe's success, enabling a full breadth of capacities to be delivered in support of the project.

The process has also been very participatory, bringing in different perspectives and knowledge from both the top down and the bottom up.

Government, civil society and major international donors have recognized WWF as a key partner and supporter of REDD+ processes in the DRC. WWF is a valuable resource and partner, as it is able to provide advice and guidance to national and international stakeholders concerning REDD+ in the DRC. However, WWF would not be able to play this valuable role if not for the strength of its partnerships.

The Government of the DRC has also acknowledged that it needs partnerships to bring together the technical and financial capacities necessary to implement REDD+.

"The DRC is a country that faces many challenges. Alone, we will not be able to go all the way. We need strong partnerships and the harmonization of approaches, methodologies and synergies between conservation strategies. REDD+ is not aid money, we want a mutually beneficial partnership." Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, National REDD+ Coordinator for the DRC MECNT



"WORKING TOGETHER IS ALSO ABOUT MODERNIZING THE WAY COMMUNITIES ARE ORGANIZED AND REPRESENTED."

BRUNO PERODEAU, WWF-DRC FOREST PROGRAMME MANAGER



DIRECT PARTNERS AND ROLES

MECNT OF THE DRC

Integration of the programme into the national REDD+ strategy and oversight

CN-REDD

MECNT agency that is the national link between local and national stakeholders, engages with external partners and promotes an inter-sectoral approach to REDD+

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND

Interim fiduciary management of the National REDD+ Fund

UN-REDD

Technical advice in the design of the programme and in the implementation of the Measurement, Reporting and Validation (MRV) system

WWF

Technical advice in the design of the programme and in the implementation of local land use planning

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL COMMITTEES

Integration and approval of land use plans and conflict resolution

CUSTOMARY AUTHORITIES AND LEGALLY RECOGNIZED LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Implementation of village-level land use plans and adoption of alternative livelihood strategies

AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES (NOVACEL, SEBO)

Implementation of agricultural/agroforestry alternatives and bushfire control

LEGAL LOGGING COMPANIES (SODEFOR)

Forest certification and shifting towards reduced impact logging

CIVIL SOCIETY (GTCR, RRN, CEDEN, ISCO CONGO, HANS SEIDEL, CHURCHES)

Information, education and communication; oversight of and support to enabling activities

DONORS (FIP, KFW, CBFF, USAID-CARPE, NORAD, AFD)

Already supporting investments in relevant, enabling and sectoral activities



A PARTNERSHIP BUILT IN THE FOREST

Patrick Onotamba Kondjo, Forestry Expert with the Forestry Inventory and Management Office of the DRC's MECNT, is part of an MRV team at work in the forest to measure carbon stocks. He works alongside Carla Ngoyi, an MRV specialist with WWF-DRC who has trained members of the local community to assist with the team's MRV efforts. By partnering and working as an integrated team, all stakeholders feel ownership of the project.

One of the most important aspects of REDD+ lies in trying to assess and quantify how much carbon the trees can absorb.



**"IT IS ESSENTIAL
THAT WE WORK
TOGETHER SO THE**

**PROCESS IS TRANSPARENT AND
LOCAL POPULATIONS KNOW
WHAT WE ARE DOING IN THEIR
COMMUNITIES. WE HELP LOCAL
PARTNERS SET UP PERMANENT
PLOTS SO WE HAVE A
MECHANISM IN PLACE TO COUNT
TREES AND SO WE CAN MEASURE
THE BIOMASS AND THE CARBON
DIOXIDE ABSORBED."**

CARLA NGOYI, WWF MRV SPECIALIST



KEY AREAS OF WORK

The Mai-Ndombe project was strategically designed to ensure the establishment of the following components and capacities to support and lay the groundwork for the DRC's envisioned national Emissions Reduction Programme – a national REDD+ at scale demonstration programme:

1. COMMITMENTS.

Expressed in policy agreements and in measurable, publically announced local, regional and national targets

2. ZONING.

Focused on conserving the most threatened forests and working with those most able to deliver effective forest protection

3. PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES.

Inclusion and engagement of the public in all levels of the development and implementation of REDD+ in the DRC, including the establishment of land tenure

4. ADDRESSING DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION.

Identifying these and offering socioeconomic alternatives

5. TECHNICAL CAPACITY.

Developing the national and local capacities needed to implement REDD+

6. GOVERNANCE.

Working with local, territorial and national officials to establish a legal framework and support for REDD+

7. FINANCE.

Ensuring the ability of the project to continue, given that its focus is long term



GAPS IN THESE CAPACITIES WERE THEN IDENTIFIED AS KEY ISSUES FOR THE MAÏ-NDOMBE PROJECT TO ADDRESS AND BROKEN DOWN INTO THOSE THAT HAVE AN IMPACT AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS:

National level

- Difficult to engage local communities in national REDD+ dialogue in the absence of on-going REDD+ projects at the field level
- National and sub-national REDD+ frameworks on tenure, participation, benefit sharing and FPIC not yet developed
- Rural poverty and no alternatives to deforestation making it difficult for communities to engage with national Government on REDD+

Local level

- Lack of knowledge and access to information among IPLCs to make informed decisions about REDD+
- Lack of involvement of IPLCs in dialogue on REDD+ international priorities (top down and/or bottom up)
- Low involvement of IPLCs in land use planning
- Lack of adequate provisions to address community tenure/resource rights, FPIC, equitable benefit sharing and related issues

THE MAÏ-NDOMBE PROJECT WAS THEN DESIGNED TO ADDRESS THESE GAPS BY ENGAGING IN AREAS OF WORK DIVIDED INTO THREE MAIN COMPONENTS:

Enabling programmes, sectoral programmes and activities aimed at fulfilling the technical prerequisites of REDD+.

REDD+ EVENTS IN DRC RELATED TO MAÏ-NDOMBE

2009



- DRC formally engaged in REDD+

2010



- Maï-Ndombe project inception workshop and validation by local, provincial, national and international stakeholders
- DRC Government presentation of Maï-Ndombe integrated approach at UNFCCC in Cancun
- WWF engagement in / establishment of Maï-Ndombe project
- Sensitization of provincial authorities on REDD+ and climate change

2011

JANUARY-JUNE



- High-level capacity building on REDD+
- Fostering the process of FPIC
- Micro-zoning of 15 pilot communities in the Bolobo territory achieved - more than 750 men and women participate in process
- Sub-national level studies on drivers of deforestation
- Launch of National Forestry Assessment



DRC AND MAÏ-NDOMBE

2011

JULY-DECEMBER



- Public consultation on REDD+ at REDD+ Summer University
- Capacity building of indigenous peoples, local communities and local and national civil society organizations to participate in REDD+ process
- Approval of country FPIC guidelines by CN-REDD
- Official recognition of pilot site into FIP
- Feasibility study on community forest
- Participative community zoning agreed upon as the main enabling activity for REDD+
- Financial and organizational structure of sub-national REDD+ established
- Mai-Ndombe initiative presented at DRC/USAID-CARPE official side event at UNFCCC Durban meeting

2012

JANUARY-JUNE



- 22 community representatives trained on computers to collect and record data for MRV
- Draft presentation of DRC ER-PIN in Santa Marta, Columbia
- More than 1,000 IPLCs from five project territories sensitized on climate change by trained national and local civil society organizations
- Estimation of carbon stocks undertaken
- FIP field mission at Bolobo territory in Mai-Ndombe
- Regional REDD+ workshop for Congo Basin held using Mai-Ndombe as case study
- Community MRV methodology developed and shared in Mai-Ndombe
- Final ER-PIN developed building on successes of Mai-Ndombe project, anticipated to generate \$70 million for DRC REDD+ efforts, to reach 300,000 households across 12 million hectares and to sustainably halve the deforestation rate, reducing associated greenhouse gas emissions by over 60 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, based on a 50% effectiveness rate of emissions reduction.





INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The inclusion of forest-dependent communities is essential to any forest conservation effort.

These groups stand to lose most from deforestation and are often best placed to act as stewards and defenders of forests. IPLCs play a prominent role in the Mai-Ndombe project, as the overall strategy focuses on participatory zoning and recognition of customary rights. IPLCs are also key beneficiaries and stakeholders, particularly in the implementation of activities such as forest conservation, reforestation and protection against man-made savannah fire.



“Involving people is vital: how do you reconcile poverty and deforestation? How can you say to people don’t cut the trees down, conserve the forest, when there is no concrete added value for poor people who need to eat?” Tosi Mpanu
Mpanu, National REDD Coordinator for the MECNT

Using participatory zoning as a tool, WWF is working with 750 members of the Bateke Nord Chefferie community in the Bolobo territory of Mai-Ndombe to increase their voice and influence on land use policy, with a particular focus on those groups that are currently marginalized. By ensuring communities are informed of the policy, legal and contractual issues that may affect their land use and other rights, WWF’s aim is to support transparent decision-making processes that involve broad participation from communities. WWF is also providing training for community-based monitoring and measuring of carbon stocks, with the aim of supporting improved engagement of communities in the REDD+ process.

“THIS HAS BEEN A MAJOR CHANGE: INSTEAD OF DOING DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, WE ARE GOING FROM BOTTOM TO TOP. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING NOW IS TO CONTINUE IMPLEMENTING PILOT ACTIVITIES WITH COMMUNITIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS BEFORE EXPANDING THE INITIATIVE OVER THE ENTIRE AREA.”

BRUNO PERODEAU, WWF-DRC FOREST
PROGRAMME MANAGER



The community of Nkala village in Maï-Ndombe once had conflicts with other local village communities over land use, and has resident communities of endangered bonobos in its forests. The community worked together with the project team to develop a land use map and zoning map. Chief Mambe Ngono proudly displays the maps to village visitors and says they have had a significant impact on the community by establishing a shared understanding of land zones and use.



“It has helped to reduce conflicts between villages, as now everyone knows and agrees where the

boundaries are and what the use of the land is. Now we have peace with our neighbors. It helps us know where the sacred forest is. It is a great improvement for us; before we used to cut down the forest anywhere. I will tell future generations that, without the forest, you will be without life.”

Chief Mambe Ngono, Nkala village



“IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT VILLAGERS UNDERSTAND REDD AND

HOW TO DO IT. WE EVEN WORK WITH SCHOOLS IN ORDER TO EDUCATE THE YOUNG GENERATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES. WE HAVE DEVELOPED A CURRICULUM THAT EXPLAINS WHAT A BEE IS, WHAT A TREE IS, WHAT A FOREST IS AND WHY IT ALL MATTERS.”

RAOUL KAMANDA MANGAMFU, HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS, CN-REDD





ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS

Significant achievements have already been realized by the Maï-Ndombe project:

■ Integrated and participatory process

Project inception workshop realizing shared validation of the project by local, provincial, national and international stakeholders; at the local level, in Malebo, it was the first time all stakeholders in the project zone were brought together.



■ Technical capacities delivered

Hands-on technical training delivered to national-level experts and local community members to measure and

monitor land use and forest cover. Also, development of studies that provided Maï-Ndombe communities with the technical tools needed for them to make more informed decisions in relation to their natural resources, on the topics of community forest management, the drivers of deforestation and the financial and organizational structure of the territory of Bolobo.

■ Rehabilitation of basic socioeconomic infrastructure

Such as investment in cassava mills and sustainable fishing that generate an alternative income for local villages, which has reduced the impact on the forests.

■ Participatory micro-zoning of community land

Has led to improved land tenure and stronger local governance, and fostered the benefit-sharing process and the sustainable planning of forest use – a total of 15 communities now have maps. Through this, participatory zoning and community land tenure have now been recognized by major donors, such as the World Bank, as the main methodology for REDD+ implementation in the DRC.



**“WE ARE
ACTUALLY
ALREADY
STARTING TO SEE THE
RESULTS OF REDD+.
MAÏ-NDOMBE IS
ACTUALLY DOING REDD+
BEFORE REDD+!”**

JEAN-JACQUES MAMBUTA, CN-REDD,
BANDUNDU DISTRICT

REDD+ SPECIES

Forest communities are starting to understand the importance of protecting biodiversity, including wildlife species. WWF, in collaboration with the DRC Government and local communities, is trying to protect the endangered bonobo (*Pan paniscus*), a great ape species found wild nowhere else on Earth, and our closest genetic relative. WWF has implemented and supported several bonobo conservation efforts in the Mai-Ndombe region. REDD+ has been identified as an effective mechanism to conserve the habitat of species such as the bonobo through a reduction in deforestation and providing alternative economic options to local communities.



Rescued bonobo at the Lola ya Bonobo (Paradise for Bonobos) sanctuary run by the non-profit Les Amis des Bonobos du Congo (Friends of the Bonobos of Congo), on the outskirts of Kinshasa.



■ Increased financing

Given the success of the DRC's ongoing REDD+ readiness efforts, including the Mai-Ndombe project, the country has been selected as one of eight pilot countries to be supported under the FIP, and has developed an ER-PIN for \$70 million in funding by the FCPF.



■ Local committees established

These help people manage natural resources and land and build local capacity on REDD+ and climate change.

■ Drivers of deforestation identified

Key technical studies to determine the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation.

“We can only start fighting deforestation when we understand how the community works. The main driver of deforestation here is slash-and-burn agriculture – farmers do it because their families need to eat. If you take it away from them, they won't have anything. People need to live, but the forest needs to contribute in a sustainable way.” Flory Botamba Esombo, WWF REDD+ Project Manager

■ FPIC

Sensitization and FPIC activities mean communities are now more informed and capable of making decisions on REDD+. At the national level, these guidelines have now been endorsed by other organizations, civil society and CN-REDD.

“Before, everyone did what they wanted for themselves only, and outsiders used to deal only with the land chief, without consulting communities. You also need vulnerable groups represented: the elderly, young people, women. Before the committees were set up, these groups had no say on issues related to community land.” Flory

Botamba Esombo, WWF REDD+ Project Manager



■ Launch of the National Forestry Assessment

Helping identify key stakeholders and contributions.

■ REDD+ Registry

The DRC has established its first national registry for REDD+ and is exploring options to use cell phone text messaging technology for the public to participate in deforestation reporting and verification – a world first.



CHALLENGES

- REDD+ is a new topic in the DRC, and it has been important to involve stakeholders at multiple levels of the decision-making process, which has led to decisions taking longer than may have been planned.
- Community expectations of economic benefits have been high and need to be continually managed.
- Sites are difficult to access and traveling is costly and time consuming.
- Valuable time was lost during the elections in 2011 and the period of civil unrest that followed.
- Changes in MECNT staffing slow down the process.
- Illegal loggers are cutting down trees with the complicity of some local traditional authorities.
- Many donor countries are facing a huge economic crisis, which may lead to budget cuts.
- Some government structures have low capacity to implement the process.
- There is a need for additional field projects to facilitate information exchange with communities.
- The DRC has many conflicting needs: this makes preparation for REDD+ difficult.
- The DRC does not have satellite image technology and lacks trained individuals to carry out technical work such as determining reference levels of deforestation.

While the Mai-Ndombe project has achieved significant success, it has also faced several challenges:



“WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO RAISE EXPECTATIONS OF THINGS WE CANNOT DELIVER. REDD IS A NEW PACKAGE – IT WORKS TOWARDS LAND USE PLANNING. HOW TO USE YOUR LAND. HOW TO ALLOCATE YOUR LAND SO YOU CAN GET THE MOST OUT OF IT. WE ARE TRYING TO MAKE SURE THAT PEOPLE CAN MAKE THE MOST OUT OF ALL THE RESOURCES ALLOCATED.”

RAYMOND LUMBUENAMO, WWF-DRC DIRECTOR



LESSONS LEARNED

- **Local communities need to be sensitized prior to being asked to take action.** Working closely with the national REDD+ authority on a communication strategy regarding IPLCs before taking any field action has helped enable a clear understanding of the vision for all parties.
- **Activities need to be officially recognized by the Government to facilitate scale-up.** The first draft of WWF's Maï-Ndombe integrated REDD+ programme was shared with CN-REDD at an early stage. The FIP and the ER-PIN are among the national programmes that will be implemented in Maï-Ndombe as a result.
- **Being a good partner enables you to be part of all levels of the REDD+ dialogue.** The key strength of the project in Maï-Ndombe has been the establishment of good partnerships between WWF and the Government of the DRC, especially early on at the national level.
- **For REDD+ to be successful, it is essential to link the local with national and global needs.** In the DRC, WWF and CN-REDD have liaised to ensure local issues are scaled up and have promoted the early integration of stakeholders from different sectors.

The project's successes and challenges have helped in realizing key lessons learned, including:



“PROJECTS LIKE MAÏ-NDOMBE ARE VITAL TO STUDY RESULTS ON A SMALL SCALE – TO SEE WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN'T SO LESSONS CAN BE REPLICATED.”

JOSTEIN LINDLAND, NORWEGIAN EMBASSY REGIONAL COUNSELOR ON FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE



- **It is important to develop methods and tools for FPIC early in the REDD+ process.** People need access to the right tools to build their own capacity and to be able to make informed decisions.
- **Local governments need to be strengthened so it is possible to engage them effectively.** This empowers them to be involved in the REDD+ process at the local and district levels.
- **When working at the community level, it is important to have a close relationship with both the people and local authorities.** These stakeholders are important to move the project forward in the community, but it is also essential to understand the local culture and respect existing bonds and forms of communication.
- **For REDD+ success, it is essential to scale up activities and link the local with national and global needs.** What is being fulfilled by the project will be capitalized on by the national authority and vice versa. This can also give the project important recognition at the international level.
- **Stakeholders from different sectors should be integrated early on in the REDD+ process for it to be successful.** This ensures ownership and transparency across sectors.
- **Targeted stakeholders need to be empowered so they can take the lead on the REDD+ process.** This helps create stakeholder ownership. In Maï-Ndombe, this has involved training on climate change and REDD+ principles, with trainees going on to train local associations and local authorities to sensitize IPLCs.

“VILLAGERS USED TO BURN DOWN THE FORESTS TWO OR THREE TIMES A YEAR. NOW IT IS DOWN TO ONE TIME AND IN SOME PARTS IT HAS STOPPED AS FARMERS HAVE LEARNED MORE EFFICIENT FARMING TECHNIQUES THAT ARE SAFER AND WILL YIELD BETTER CROPS FOR THEM.”

JEAN-JACQUES MAMBITA, CN-REDD BANDUNDU DISTRICT

- **Civil society activities need to be recognized officially by local, regional and national authorities.** This creates shared visions and objectives for the process, resulting in shared successes.
- **Participative land use mapping is the first step towards securing community land tenure to stop deforestation.** Maps empower communities in land tenure issues and the identification of land rights by confirming land limits that need to be approved by all neighboring communities.

INTERDICTION DE COUPER
LES ARBRES LE LONG
DE LA RIVIERE BAMBOL
ZONE (2) WWF

NEXT STEPS FOR REDD+ IN THE DRC: DEMONSTRATION PHASE

With new REDD+ readiness capacities in place, the DRC is now starting on plans to launch the **demonstration (investment) phase** of its REDD+ implementation strategy, in advance of the anticipated 2020 delivery of an official REDD+ mechanism. Next steps for this include:

Ensure harmonization with other sectors and clarify a nested vs. a jurisdictional approach

Clarify tax/fiscal incentives and legal anchorage of land use tenure, recognition, collective rights, etc.

Set up community forests and/or community protected areas

Develop integration and coherence of community-based and administrative land use management

Realize multi-sectoral REDD+ policy harmonization efforts

Address both industrial and non-industrial drivers of deforestation

Facilitate private sector engagement with appropriate incentives and mechanism

DRC'S ER-PIN IS THE FIRST ATTEMPT AT JURISDICTIONAL REDD+ ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT; THE FIRST LARGE-SCALE REDD+ OF ITS TYPE THAT INCORPORATES GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT, CORPORATE PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY ACTION; AND SETS THE BAR FOR REDD+ NOT ONLY IN AFRICA BUT ALSO FOR CONSERVATION GLOBALLY.



The Government of the DRC has identified that, to continue to move forward effectively on REDD+, it needs from the global community:

- **Simplicity of projects**
Many proposed donor projects are too technical and/or complicated to be useful.
- **Clarity on funding**
Much money has been pledged, but in some cases it is recycled funding, which means it may take away from other important issues; or it is funding that is donor driven and not demand driven, which means it often doesn't meet the DRC's needs or expectations.
- **Expanded partnerships**
The Government of the DRC has acknowledged its own limited capacity and the need to continue to engage in partnerships to prepare for REDD+.



THE DRC EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS PROGRAMME IDEA NOTE

The DRC is now poised to enter into the **demonstration (investment) phase** of its REDD+ process.

The vision is to develop a large-scale, provincial-level emissions reductions programme covering 12 million hectares of the Maï-Ndombe region, where the existing REDD+ preparation phase of work has been on-going. The project would reach 300,000 families and sustainably reduce deforestation by half.

DRC has now developed an ER-PIN, which outlines this project, for submission to the FCPF for funding of approximately \$70 million. Its development was participatory and included input from government representatives, the private sector, international organizations, local non-governmental organizations and IPLCs.

WWF believes the ER-PIN process is an important milestone for the DRC because it will enable the development of REDD+ at scale by the country. In addition, it provides the opportunity to define the DRC's national REDD+ strategy and apply it to a specific site, in this case Maï-Ndombe.

Through this process, key data have been determined for Maï-Ndombe, including on drivers of deforestation, reference levels, activities essential to REDD+ implementation, implementation costs, etc. In addition, the process is providing an opportunity for key stakeholder concerns to be raised and addressed.

IPLCs have a prominent place in the ER-PIN as the overall strategy focuses on participatory zoning and recognition of their customary rights. They are also key beneficiaries and stakeholders, particularly in the implementation of activities such as forest conservation, reforestation and protection against anthropogenic savannah fire.

This initiative will also have international implications. This DRC's ER-PIN is the first attempt at jurisdictional REDD+ on the African continent; the first large-scale REDD+ of its type that incorporates government investment, corporate projects and community action; and sets the bar for REDD+ not only in Africa but also for conservation globally.

“WWF CONSIDERS THE COMPLETION OF THE ER-PIN A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE AS THE DRC CONTINUES TOWARDS REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION AT SCALE. THIS PROGRAMME OF EMISSIONS REDUCTION IS PLANNED OVER A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS AND CAN BEGIN IN 2015, IF THE TESTS AND EXTENDED CONSULTATION ARE CONCLUSIVE.”

BRUNO PERODEAU, WWF-DRC FOREST PROGRAMME MANAGER



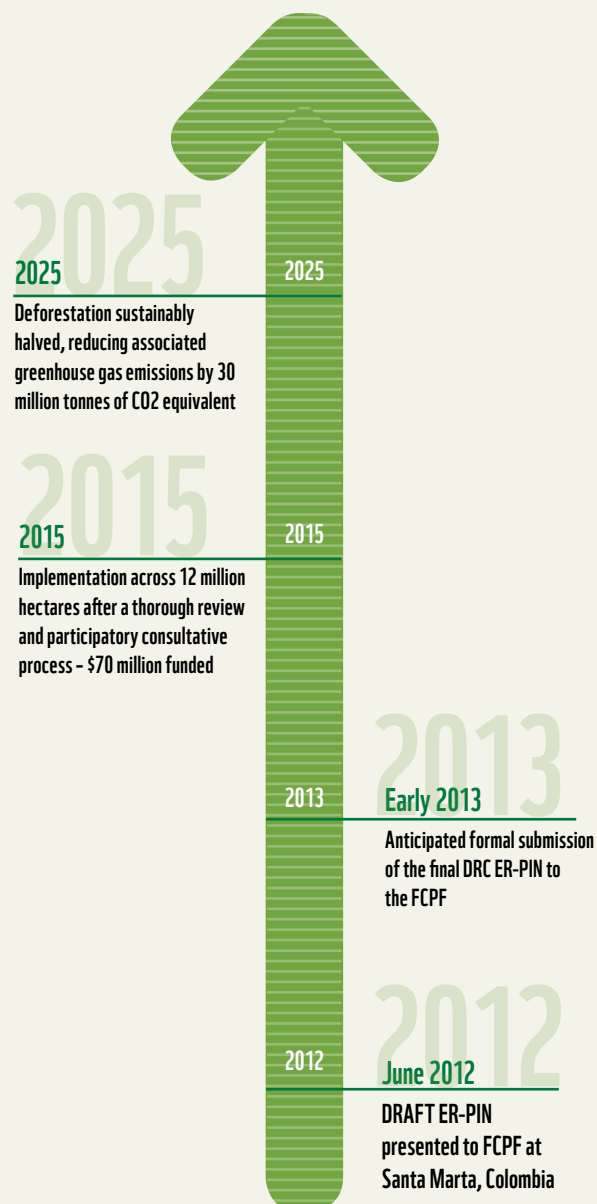
Enabling activities under the proposed Emissions Reduction Programme include:

- Organization and democratic structuring of the rural population
- Sensitization and FPIC
- Participative zoning and customary rights recognition (village-level land management plans)
- Integration into territorial-level land use planning and validation of local land use plans
- Identifying economic alternatives to current practices and proposing sectoral activities to be implemented
- Signing of a Payment for Environmental Services (PES) contract for the implementation of village land management planning

Sectoral activities under the proposed Emissions Reduction Programme include:

- Agroforestry on degraded land to sustainably produce food and fuel wood
- Agricultural intensification using cash crops where possible as a strategy to phase out slash-and-burn agriculture (palm oil, coffee, cacao)
- Bush fire control
- Community forestry
- Reduced-impact logging and forest certification
- Access to markets (contract planting)
- Improved value chains

ER-PIN PROJECTED TIMELINE







REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: REDD+ IN THE CONGO BASIN

The DRC is party to the Congo Basin Declaration for REDD+, a common commitment among the countries of Central Africa to work on REDD+ together, which was agreed in 2011.

The declaration is endorsed by seven forest countries: Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the DRC, Republic of the Congo and Rwanda; and seven donor countries: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States of America; as well as the European Commission. The process has been led by Norad.

The Congo Basin Declaration calls for intensified REDD+ in the Congo Basin that focuses on the need for increased international focus and finance. It has two parts: donor country commitments to mobilizing technical and financial support and coordinating efforts; and forest country commitments to sustainable development, addressing the drivers of deforestation, increased forest governance and participatory land use planning. Congo Basin countries have also signaled their support for a Green Economy/Green Growth Roadmap that guides the transition to a more sustainable future.



“The Congo Basin Declaration has given all countries the opportunity to have the same visions. Before, every country had to negotiate the REDD+ process on their own. Now, they have a common vision and they have a strong voice they can raise during climate negotiations.”

Flory Botamba Esombo, WWF REDD+ Project Manager



MAÏ-NDOMBE LESSONS FOR REPLICATION ACROSS THE CONGO BASIN

Three key areas of successful REDD+ work in the DRC have been identified that can be applied in other Congo Basin countries:

1. SIMPLE LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

Simple Land Management Plans developed with input from local communities in the Maï-Ndombe REDD+ project are now part of the DRC's ER-PIN proposal, and should be integrated as part of a future REDD+ plan for the Congo Basin. This is important for Congo Basin countries because this process ensures community involvement and government validation in planning and also provides government recognition of community ownership and rights over land, tree and forest carbon.

2. REDD FINANCE

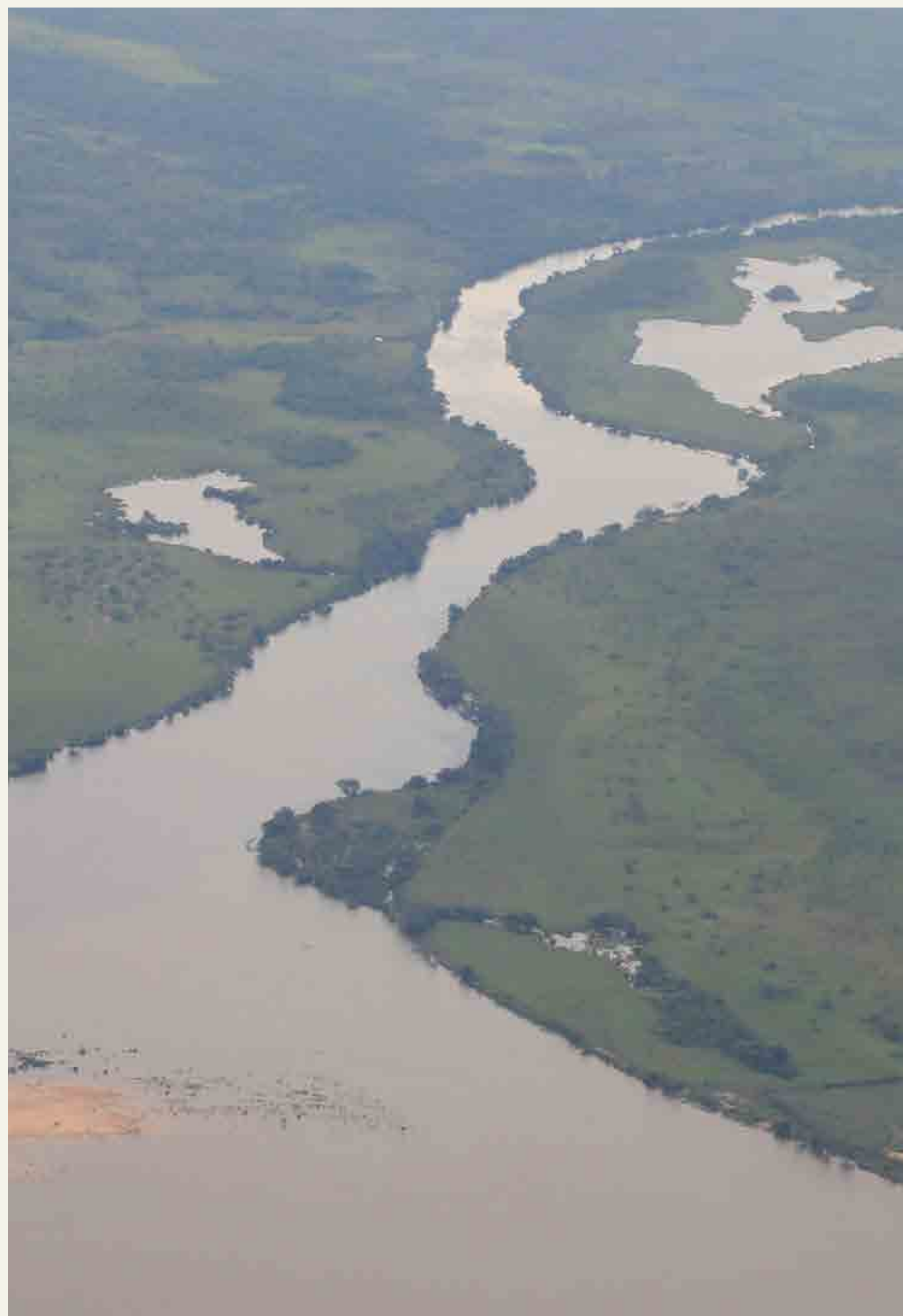
The Maï-Ndombe REDD+ project has set up ecosystem services activities that are applicable to different parts of the Congo Basin. Funds provided for such REDD+ activities should be based not just on forest carbon but rather on the performance of all activities. A PES system on a local level is therefore more appropriate in the DRC and the Congo Basin context, because the Congo Basin forest has a comparatively low deforestation rate and the population depends heavily on environmental services provided by the forest.

3. COMMUNITY MRV

A simple MRV system developed with the leadership of local communities in the Maï-Ndombe REDD+ project can easily be replicated in different parts of the Congo Basin. Such an MRV system is relevant in different Congo Basin countries because it takes into account environmental and social safeguards, transfers ownership of and responsibility for the MRV system to local communities and is based on performance.

“WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THAT OUR COUNTRIES NEED TO BUILD ROADS, SCHOOLS, BUILDINGS – BUT WE NEED TO DO IT RESPONSIBLY. WE ARE AT A POINT WHERE WE CAN LEARN FROM THE MISTAKES OF THE WEST AND CONDUCT OUR DEVELOPMENT IN A MORE SUSTAINABLE WAY.”

TOSI MPANU MPANU, NATIONAL REDD COORDINATOR FOR THE MECNT



CONCLUSIONS

It is exciting time for REDD+ in the DRC. Already, some of the “transformational” impacts the Government of the DRC set as objectives are beginning to be realized. Communities are working together to develop land use maps and plans. The government is recognizing their work and their value in the REDD+ process. Communities are beginning to demonstrate real commitments to reductions of deforestation and forest degradation – with less slash-and-burn and more sustainable agroforestry.

National technical capacity is developing, with new local forestry experts being trained in MRV within both the governmental and the non-governmental sectors. Local villagers in remote communities have even been trained to carry out independent surveys of land use and to upload the information onto computer databases.

Now the country is launching its first-ever REDD+ registry, and is exploring the innovative use of mobile phones for payment and documentation of deforestation – including by local communities.

At the same time, the country is submitting an ER-PIN to take the successful preparation phase of REDD+ to the demonstration/investment phase.

The only thing lacking at this stage is a **globally functioning and endorsed REDD+ mechanism with clear targets and guidance**. Global policymakers should now match the ambition and commitment the DRC has shown. Several forest countries have shown their readiness for REDD+ and will soon outpace the overall REDD+ process if more aggressive action is not taken at the global level.



“The state of play has changed. Climate change is at the center of everything. It is not just an environmental issue: it relates to economic competition, socioeconomic conditions, everything; developed countries have to reduce their emissions to industrialize. We, developing countries, hold a big chunk of the climate change phenomenon solution. We are the ones with the smallest carbon footprint and the greatest potential to store carbon.”

Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, National REDD Coordinator for the MECNT

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100%
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OUR VISION

WWF's global Forest and Climate Initiative is working to ensure that REDD+ significantly contributes to the conservation of tropical forest and thereby to the reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation for the benefit of people and nature.

panda.org/forestclimate



For further information, please contact: WWF Forest and Climate Initiative
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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and
to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

www.panda.org/forestclimate